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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে ‘ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার’ পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

**SINHA MURDER
HC to start
hearing death
reference,
appeals today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is set to start hearing today the death reference and appeals filed by the convicts in the Major (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan murder case, said Deputy Attorney General Shamima Sultana Dipti yesterday.

On January 31, 2022, Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Ismail sentenced Teknaf Police Station's suspended OC Pradeep Kumar Das and its suspended SI Liaquat Ali to death and six others to life term in the case.

The case documents reached as death reference to the HC on February 8, 2022. Sinha was killed in police firing at Baharchhara police checkpoint on Marine Drive in Teknaf on July 31, 2020. Sinha's sister filed the case on August 5, 2020.



Speakers at a roundtable on “Childhood Nutrition in Bangladesh”, jointly organised by The Daily Star and icddr,b at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**Polytechnic
students
postpone
protests****Committee formed
to address demands**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The students of polytechnic institutes postponed their protests yesterday following the formation of an eight-member committee by the government to prepare an implementation roadmap for their six-point demand.

At a press conference, the student leaders said the decision was made as a gesture of goodwill towards the authorities. However, they warned that if their demands are not met or if the process is delayed, they will be compelled to intensify their protests.

Meanwhile, the government's committee – including representatives from Technical and Madrasah Education Division, the Directorate of Technical Education, Institution of Engineers Bangladesh, Institution of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh and student leaders – has been instructed to submit its report to the TMED secretary within three weeks.

MOTHER AND CHILD NUTRITION**Some progress, but
challenges remain**

Say experts at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although Bangladesh has made progress in regard to mother and child nutrition, the country still has a long way to go to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, nutrition and public health experts said yesterday.

They highlighted the need to reduce stunting, wasting, anaemia, low birth weight and childhood overweight, and to increase rates of exclusive breastfeeding. To achieve this, they recommended increasing budgetary allocations, ensuring proper fund utilisation, raising awareness on the necessity of breastfeeding, and involving more youths in nutrition programmes.

The observations came at a roundtable titled “Childhood Nutrition in Bangladesh”, jointly organised by The Daily Star and icddr,b at the Daily Star Centre yesterday.

In his keynote presentation, Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, executive director of icddr,b, said while SDG 2 relates specifically to nutrition, six of its targets are particularly

crucial for women and children in low- and middle-income countries. These are: stunting, anaemia, low birth weight, childhood

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase budget, manpower for nutrition programmes
- Improve fund utilisation, accountability
- Deploy more community health workers at grassroots
- Promote exclusive breastfeeding
- Provide antenatal care, nutrition counselling to pregnant women

overweight, breastfeeding, and wasting.

“The rate of exclusive breastfeeding in Bangladesh is now hovering around 55 percent,” he said. “This means nearly half the infants under six months are deprived of perhaps the best intervention available to them --

breast milk. Even in this particular target, Bangladesh has a lot to do.”

Regarding stunting, he said there has been considerable improvement -- from 41 percent in 2011 to 21 percent in 2022.

“But 21 percent still means one in five children you see are stunted. It seems unlikely at this stage that Bangladesh will be able to achieve the SDG target for stunting under the age of five years,” he added.

Although the rate of wasting declined from 16 percent in 2011 to 11 percent in 2022, recent data shows it could now be as high as 18 percent. “The WHO emergency cutoff is 15 percent,” he warned.

Dr Ahmed also stressed the importance of increasing the health and nutrition budget.

He recommended deploying effective grassroots-level community health workers, focusing on adolescent girls' nutrition, promoting dietary diversity, forming mothers' clubs for discussions on breastfeeding and complementary feeding, and addressing maternal depression.

Mehedi Hasan, assistant director of the Institute of Public

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**SAD leader
held in univ
student
murder**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An accused in the murder case of Zahidul Islam Parvez, a student of Primeasia University, was arrested early yesterday from Titas upazila in Cumilla.

A team of Rab-11 and police arrested Hridoy Miaz, 23, from Monairkandi village, said Titas Police Station OC Md Shahid Ullah.

Tipped-off, a team raided the house of the accused's uncle, the OC added.

Hridoy is the joint member secretary of the Banani Thana Committee of Students Against Discrimination (SAD), said police.

Rab later handed him over to Banani Police Station, said the station's OC Russel Sarwar. He will be produced before a court today.

Parvez, 24, was stabbed to death on Saturday. His cousin filed a case with Banani Police Station early Sunday, naming eight individuals -- including two SAD leaders -- and 25 to 30 unidentified others.

A Dhaka court on Monday placed three persons on a seven-day remand in connection with the case.

**10 hurt as Dhaka
and City college
students clash**

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 students were injured in a clash between Dhaka College and Dhaka City College yesterday, which broke out around noon and continued till 3:00pm with a brief pause.

Both institutions announced suspension of all classes for Wednesday and Thursday.

Injured students from both colleges received primary treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Mohammad Faruk, in-charge of the DMCH police outpost.

Tension had been simmering since around 11:00am and quickly escalated into a chase and counter-chase by midday. As the violence intensified, traffic on both sides of the road came to a standstill.

Meanwhile, a viral video showed a group of students attacking a youth inside a bus. Police later removed them from the vehicle.

According to eyewitnesses, students of City College initially gathered under the footbridge near the Science Laboratory intersection, while Dhaka College students assembled in front of the nearby Teachers' Training College.

Clashes reignited around 2:00pm when students returned to the streets at the intersection. Police charged batons to push City College students back onto their campus. Officers were also deployed in front of the college gate and under the footbridge

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**RANA PLAZA TRAGEDY
Ensure justice,
compensation
for the victims
Demands BLAST**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the 12th anniversary of the Rana Plaza tragedy approaches, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) has urged the government and judiciary to immediately resolve the long-delayed legal proceedings, ensure fair compensation for victims, and memorialise the lives lost in one of the deadliest industrial disasters.

In a press statement yesterday, BLAST outlined 10 specific demands aimed at addressing the ongoing injustices faced by the survivors and families of the 1,138 workers who died and the nearly 1,800 who were injured when the building collapsed on April 24, 2013.

The organisation called for the swift disposal of all pending cases in both labour and criminal courts. Despite the gravity of the disaster, cases filed under the Bangladesh Labour Act, Building Construction Act, and Penal Code remain unresolved more than a decade later, it said.

BLAST pointed out that most of the accused are out on bail, while victims' families continue to wait for justice.

It also called for the formation of a multi-stakeholder monitoring team, comprising lawyers, journalists, and trade union representatives, to track the progress of these cases and ensure transparency.

One of BLAST's most urgent demands is a reform of the current compensation structure, which provides only Tk 2 lakh for deceased workers and Tk 2.5 lakh for the injured.

It also called for the publication of annual workplace safety inspection reports and full implementation of the National Occupational Health and Safety Policy.

**Set up dengue
units at hospitals**

DNCC administrator tells event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DNCC Administrator Mohammad Ezaz has called for the establishment of dedicated dengue units in public and private hospitals.

“Free dengue testing has been arranged at all DNCC urban health and maternity centres,” he said.

He made the remarks yesterday during a discussion held at the DNCC Nagar Bhaban in Gulshan-2, aimed at combating the potential dengue outbreak during the upcoming monsoon.

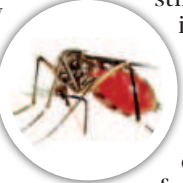
The meeting involved representatives of government and private hospitals and clinics under the DNCC's jurisdiction, alongside public health experts.

Speaking to journalists, the

DNCC administrator said, “Aedes mosquito larvae breed inside homes, but our workers can't enter private residences due to safety concerns. So, public awareness is crucial. We'll launch a volunteer-led campaign next week. After a week, if larvae are still found, fines will be imposed.”

At the meeting, public health expert Prof Benazir Ahmed emphasised the need for proper counselling in hospitals for dengue patients and called for free dengue testing in all hospitals.

Entomologist Kabirul Basar of Jahangirnagar University said, “We need to study why the death toll is so high in our country. Hospitals must follow effective guidelines to ensure proper treatment.”



Around 32 Kuet students observed a hunger strike for the second consecutive day yesterday, demanding the resignation of the university vice-chancellor. The strike has left many of them physically weakened. The photo was taken in front of the university's Student Welfare Centre.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

**Kuet students
continue
hunger strike**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 32 students of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) yesterday observed their hunger strike for the second consecutive day, demanding the resignation of Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Masud.

The hunger strike began around 4:00pm on Monday.

During a visit to the Student Welfare Centre's main gate in the morning, several students on hunger strike were seen resting under a mosquito net, while others read books. A white ambulance remained parked nearby.

One of the students fell ill and is receiving medical treatment, said the protesters.

The in-charge of the media cell for the protesting students' group, requesting anonymity, confirmed the matter to The Daily Star.

He said, “If doctors say so, we will

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