Seraj Uddin Ahmed's death anniv

CITY DESK

Today is the 40th death anniversary of Seraj Uddin Ahmed, founder chairman of Elite Paint Group of Companies, said a press release.

He was also founder director of Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd, former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries & former chairman of Tea Traders Association of Bangladesh. A milad mahfil followed by ziafat will be held at Golf Garden, Army Golf Club, Dhaka. Similar programme will be also held in Chattogram.

BRIDGE OVER MALIJHI RIVER

Locals suffer as approach roads await repair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

The approach roads of a bridge over the Malijhi river in Mymensingh, a tributary of the Kongsha, damaged during last year's devastating floods, have yet to be repaired, leaving thousands of villagers in hardship.

The 50-foot bridge, constructed in 2023 by the Department of Disaster Management, serves as a vital communication link for at least five villages, including Gungiajury and Joitok in Dhurail under Haluaghat upazila.

Md Warisuddin Sumon, chairman of Dhurail Union Parishad, said the approach roads on both sides of the bridge were washed away in the floods. Since then, locals, with support from the union parishad, have taken temporary measures to keep the bridge usable.

With boro harvesting currently underway, farmers are suffering the most as they struggle to transport their produce due to the poor state of the bridge, he said.

He said after the boro harvest, the union parishad will begin constructing guide walls and filling earth to reinforce the bridge before the upcoming monsoon. The work is estimated to cost around Tk 10 lakh.

Abdul Motalab, a farmer from Gungiajury village, said carrying paddy on foot across the bridge is both difficult and costly. "Many farmers are being forced to sell their paddy to middlemen at lower prices," he added.

More than 500 children from five educational institutions on both sides of the bridge use the structure daily, said Bipul Ahmed of Gungiajury. "They are the worst sufferers. Even reaching the local Dubarpar Bazar to buy or sell essentials has become difficult," he added.

Contacted, Alinur Khan, upazila nirbahi officer of Haluaghat, said, "Recently we visited the spot, and a suitable project is being undertaken to repair the roads with strong guide walls as the area is flood-prone."

"As the monsoon is approaching, we are also considering a temporary arrangement to ensure the bridge remains usable," he added.

Fake videos flood

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journalists, and talk show hosts. They often used clickbait headlines, misleading thumbnails, and distorted quotes from guests, the report said.

Dismislab found that 20 of the 29 channels posting these videos were created after Bangladesh's political transition in August 2024.

About 90 percent of the videos carried advertisements, indicating that both the content creators and YouTube were profiting from the disinformation.

Roughly 40 percent of the videos targeted the interim government, while 20 percent went after the National Citizen Party. BNP and Awami League were each targeted in about 10 percent of the videos.

Across social media, fact-checking organisations published 1,326 fact-check reports since the beginning of 2025. Nearly half of these countered political misinformation, while 13 percent focused on religion. Disinformation related to crime and public safety rose sevenfold during the same period, said the report.

The analysis found that AL remained central to Bangladesh's disinformation landscape, both as a source and a target. About 68 percent of the false claims portrayed the party or its leaders in a favourable light.

In contrast, nearly all misinformation about the interim government and other political parties had a negative tone, the report stated.

"Much of the fact-checked misinformation around AL involved old or unrelated protest footage, falsely shared as recent rallies," the report said.

Other false narratives claimed that Sheikh Hasina had met UN and EU delegations in New Delhi, where she had taken shelter after her ouster, or that she would meet world leaders elsewhere, the report stated.

Student movement coordinators were among the hardest-hit by misinformation campaigns.

Dismislab found that at least three female student leaders were targeted with doctored images falsely depicting them in sexually explicit situations.

Mass media outlets also contributed to spreading political misinformation.

The volume of such misinformation "surged" in early 2025, said Dismislab.

16% children

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is lower than in rural areas and stressed the need to prioritise urban vaccination.

He called for proper implementation of a separate urban vaccination strategy and for city corporations to have their own manpower for the task.

He also emphasised the need to enhance cold-chain capacity and ensure increased domestic financing for immunisation before the transition of Gavi support by 2029.

Prof Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for health ministry, said reaching every child in urban areas remains a major challenge. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to universal vaccination and urged intensified efforts.

No polls before

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a party and the suspension of their registration, which the IAB agreed to."

"People didn't sacrifice their lives for the same political situation. They wouldn't tolerate it, and as their representatives, we will not tolerate it either," he said.

He also raised concerns over the local government elections, saying that the Election Commission is moving towards national elections without any reforms.

Earlier, NCP held another meeting with Ganosamhati Andolon. An 11-member delegation, led by its chief Zonayed Saki, joined the meeting at the NCP's office at Bangla Motor. After the meeting, Saki said their main focus was reforms.

He said they want significant reforms before the next national election.

Actor Siddique

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allegedly assaulted him before turning him in. A video of the incident, which went viral on social media, shows him with torn clothing and bruises. A person can be heard saying that he was "a supporter of the fascist regime".

Siddique had earlier collected a nomination from AL to contest the Dhaka-17 by-election following the death of MP and veteran actor Akbar Hossain Pathan Farooque in 2023. However, he did not receive the party's nomination.

491 workers killed

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workers demanding unpaid wages and Eid bonuses. An additional 19 deaths occurred due to preventable workplace hazards during this period.

Domestic and child workers remain particularly vulnerable. Over the past three years, 30 domestic workers were reportedly killed and 28 seriously injured by employers.

In early 2025, two child domestic workers were killed and another critically injured -- highlighting the persistent exploitation within informal sectors, where legal safeguards are weakest, it added.

Despite their pivotal role in the economy, female garment workers continue to face low wages, unsafe conditions, lack of maternity benefits, and routine harassment.

Child labour also remains entrenched in sectors such as construction, transport and small-scale manufacturing, robbing children of their right to education and exposing them to dangerous tasks.

Meanwhile, tea workers continue to endure meagre pay, inadequate housing and poor access to healthcare.

In light of these findings, HRSS called for urgent and comprehensive reforms.

These include the establishment of a living minimum wage, legally enforced occupational safety standards, and stronger protections for the rights of workers to organise and access healthcare.

The organisation also urged the government to enforce laws prohibiting workplace discrimination and sexual harassment, particularly in the garment sector, and to take immediate steps to eradicate child labour.

This, it argued, must be backed by expanded access to education and social protection schemes.

Improving the living standards of tea workers through revised wages, better housing and accessible healthcare was also highlighted as a priority, along with extending legal and social protections to informal workers such as domestic workers, rickshaw-pullers and day labourers.

HRSS further called for labour courts to be strengthened to deliver timely and affordable justice, and for the creation of emergency support funds for workers affected by natural disasters, pandemics, or other crises.

BSRM School

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Alihussain Akberali, FCA; Tamara Hasan Abed, chairperson of the Board of Trustees of BRAC University; and Prof Syed Ferhat Anwar, vice-chancellor, spoke on the occasion.

Prof Arshad M Chowdhury, dean of the BSRM School of Engineering, delivered the welcome speech, while Khairul Basher, director of communications at BRAC University, moderated the event.

PRAYER TIMING
MAY 1

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-15	12-45	4-45	6-31	8-00
JAMAAT	4-50	1-15	5-00	6-35	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION