



BNP leaders and activists offer prayers after placing wreaths at the grave of former president Ziaur Rahman in the capital yesterday, marking his 44th death anniversary. BNP and its various associate bodies have organised programmes over eight days across the country to observe the anniversary of the party founder.

PHOTO: STAR

Azharul's acquittal 'a mockery of justice'

Says Gonotantrik Odhikar Committee
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonotantrik Odhikar Committee, a civic platform, yesterday condemned the acquittal of Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam, calling the Appellate Division's verdict a "mockery of justice" and a result of political influence over the judiciary.

In a statement issued by its executive committee, the platform questioned how a convicted war criminal -- previously sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal -- could now be declared completely innocent.

"Acquitting a recognised war criminal as entirely

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Build 'three zero clubs' to save the planet

Prof Yunus urges the youth
BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the youth to build "three zero clubs" to save the planet from destruction, saying the planet will not sustain under the current civilisation.

"The civilisation we are building today is a self-destructive civilisation that will kill [the planet]," he said while delivering his lecture at Soka University in Tokyo.

During the occasion, Prof Yunus received an honorary doctorate degree from Soka University.

He was conferred the honorary degree in recognition of his contributions to social



innovation and global development.

At the programme, Prof Yunus said human beings will not be able to survive under the current civilisation, as environmental destruction is going on all around the world.

Highlighting his "three zero theory" -- zero

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HC JUDGES

Writ petition seeks stay on appointment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer filed a writ petition with the High Court on Thursday seeking a stay on the effectiveness of the public circular that invited applications from candidates for the posts of its additional HC judges.

On May 28, the Supreme Court administration for the first time issued a public circular asking for such applications.

The circular was issued under Section 7(a) of the Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance, 2025.

The ordinance, issued by the law ministry on January 21, 2025, established the framework for appointing judges to both the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the Supreme Court.

As per Section 3 of the Ordinance, a permanent body known as the Supreme Judicial Appointment Council has been formed to assist the chief justice in recommending suitable candidates for judicial appointments. The Chief Justice serves as the chairperson of this council.

According to section 7 of the ordinance, the council has the authority to collect relevant information about potential candidates on its own initiative.

Additionally, it can publicly invite applications through a standard form to be submitted by interested

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DRAINAGE DISASTER

Why Dhaka drowns every monsoon

Encroached canals, lost wetlands, outdated drainage systems leave the capital submerged after every rain



HELEMUL ALAM

The poor drainage system of Dhaka was once again exposed during the recent heavy rainfall that inundated large swathes of the city.

Non-stop rain that began on Thursday morning and continued into early Friday submerged numerous areas, including Shantinagar, Kalshi, Mirpur, Shewrapara, Green Road, Neelkhet, various parts of Old Dhaka, Bhashantek, Utarkhan, and Dakkhin Khan.

According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Dhaka received 196 millimetres of rainfall in the 24 hours beginning at 6:00am on Thursday.

Despite the two Dhaka city corporations investing more than Tk 262 crore over four years till 2024 in constructing 334.19km of drainage infrastructure, including box culverts and drains, the capital continues to suffer severe flooding during rain.

Experts blame indiscriminate filling of waterbodies and canals in the name of urban development, along with outdated and inadequate drainage systems, as the main causes of severe waterlogging in the city. They point out that the filling of flood flow zones has significantly reduced water-carrying capacity, intensifying the city's vulnerability to waterlogging.

A 2019 study by the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) revealed that Dhaka has lost 3,440 acres out of 9,556 acres of designated flood flow zones, retention areas, and waterbodies since the publication of the previous Detailed Area Plan (DAP 2010).

Adil Mohammed Khan, president of BIP, said the main reason for this persistent waterlogging is unplanned urbanisation that has destroyed waterbodies, canals, and flood flow zones.

He said a liveable city should have at least 35 to 40 percent of its area comprised of

waterbodies and green spaces. In Dhaka, this has been reduced to around 10 percent.

According to BIP data, waterbodies covered 20.57 percent of Dhaka's central area in 1995. By 2023, this figure had dropped to just 2.9 percent. Similarly, green space has shrunk from 22 percent to only 9 percent over the same period.

Adil explained that while artificial drainage can reduce the duration of flooding, it cannot fully eliminate waterlogging if natural channels are destroyed.

Former BIP president Mohammad Fazle Reza Sumon said although water receded faster this time due to recent cleaning efforts in canals like Manda, Zirani, Shyampur, and parts of Sutivola and Dumni, problems remain.

He said tertiary drains connected to these cleaned canals have not been upgraded to handle rainfall above 400mm.

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4 on 3-day remand over Moghbazar mugging

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed four people on a three-day remand each in a case filed over a recent mugging in Dhaka's Moghbazar, where a man was attacked with machetes.

The four are Md Sohail Rana, Md Jibon alias Hridoy, Md Shamim, and Mokbul Hossain.

Rana, Hridoy and Shamim took part in the mugging while Mokbul is a buyer of the mugged goods.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Israt Zenifer Zerlin passed the order after Ibrahim Khalil, a sub-inspector of Hatirjheel Police Station, produced them with a five-day remand prayer. According to police, the mugging took place on Greenway Lane in Moghbazar on May 18 when three assailants on a motorbike intercepted a man named Abdullah, a restaurant employee from Motijheel.



A man struggles to ride his bike on a waterlogged road near new market area of the capital yesterday. Non-stop rain that began on Thursday morning and continued into early yesterday submerged numerous areas. The major reason for the constant waterlogging woes is a combination of encroachment and waste-dumping in canals, alongside poor drainage systems. Pictured above, the clogged up Shuvadda canal.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN, PALASH KHAN

Mother fish release eggs in Halda river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Carp species -- including rui, katla, mrigal, and kalbaush -- released eggs in the Halda River yesterday, a significant moment for Bangladesh's freshwater fish breeding efforts.

The spawning began around 2:00am at 8-10 points along the river, according to fisheries officials.

Hundreds of boats reportedly gathered between 2-5 buckets of eggs each.

Earlier, egg samples were observed at multiple sites yesterday afternoon and on Monday night, with several collectors reporting small quantities gathered, ranging from 50-100 grammes.

Muhammad Shafi, an egg collector from North Madarsha village in Hathazari, said he collected 13 buckets using eight boats, while Md Kamal from Garduara village reported gathering 35 buckets using 13 boats, which he has since preserved in hatcheries for fry production.

The Halda's annual breeding season spans from April to June. Heavy rainfall and thunderstorms, combined with high tides or ebb tides, create optimal conditions for mother fishes to spawn.

This year, recent rainfall led to favourable spawning

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