



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus among guests at the inauguration session of the programmes of Social Business Day at the Samajik Convention Centre in Zirabo, Savar in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PTI

Youth killed as bus crashes onto divider in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pedestrian was killed on the spot and another injured when a bus veered off course and mounted the road divider at the Technical intersection in Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

The deceased is Anisuzzaman, 18, a day labourer from Pabna, said police.

The incident occurred around 12:45pm while the traffic signal was red, said Mirpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sajjad Rumon.

“Traffic was at a standstill when a speeding SB Super Deluxe bus operating on the Dhaka-Kushtia route suddenly climbed onto the road island, running over a pedestrian who was standing near it. He died on the spot,” the OC said.

Another person sustained serious injuries in the crash and was taken to a hospital, he added.

The bus driver, Billal Hossain, 40, attempted to flee the scene but was caught by police. The vehicle has been seized. Legal proceedings are underway, said police.

The OC said they think the brakes failed on the bus, which is why the driver was unable to stop it. He said the matter is being investigated.

4.8 lakh narcotics cases pending despite deadline

Judge shortage, lack of witnesses, inadequate court infrastructure blamed for delays

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Despite legal provisions for quick resolution, more than 4.8 lakh narcotics cases have been pending across the country as of March 31 this year, according to a Supreme Court report.

As per the law, such cases should be disposed of within 90 to 135 working days. However, over 81,600 cases have remained unresolved for more than five years, said the report.

Legal experts say the main reasons for the delays include the absence of witnesses, alongside shortage of judges, designated courts, and public prosecutors.

As of June 22, a total of 16,763 accused in narcotics cases were in jail, according to the Department of Prisons.

In one example, Rab arrested 44-year-old Abdul Mannan on June 19, 2008, with 14 bottles of Indian Phensedyl in Dhaka's Pallabi area and filed a narcotics case against him.

Charges were filed on July 22 that year, with ten witnesses listed. The next year, on March 25, the Joint Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court-2 of Dhaka framed charges against him.

Years later, on April 26, 2016, the case was transferred to the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka for trial proceedings.

Since then, 70 hearings have taken place, but only three

witnesses have testified.

The trial is yet to conclude, as witnesses have repeatedly failed to appear and give their statements. Meanwhile, the accused, who is currently on bail, is now absconding, said a court staffer.

In another case, police arrested Raju, 29, with 175 yaba pills in Dhaka's Jatrabari on December 17, 2015.

AT A GLANCE

- Legal mandate requires case disposal within 90 to 135 working days
- More than 81,600 cases unresolved for over 5yrs
- Around 16,763 accused held in jail as of June 22, 2025
- Experts call for dedicated narcotics courts, more judicial resources
- Delays contribute to overcrowded prisons, rights concerns

On the same day, police filed a narcotics case with Jatrabari Police Station, accusing Raju. Police submitted charges against him on January 20, the following year.

On July 21 of 2016, the court framed charges against him. So far, out of 27 hearings, only one

of the eight listed witnesses has testified.

Dewan Ashik, bench assistant of the court, said witnesses are not appearing despite efforts by the court to ensure their presence.

WHAT LEGAL EXPERTS, OFFICIALS SAY

Supreme Court lawyer and former deputy attorney general Farhad Ahmed said many witnesses in narcotics cases are day labourers, rickshaw pullers or restaurant workers who often change locations, making it difficult to bring them to court.

In 2019, the High Court directed lower courts to dispose of narcotics cases within six months of taking cognisance. As many as 1,55,866 such cases were pending across the country till December 31, 2018. The courts disposed of 8,977 narcotics cases in 2018, according to a Supreme Court study report published on February 5, 2019.

The High Court said these trials could be completed in a day if judges, investigation officers, and prosecutors handled them efficiently. It also directed deputy commissioners and police superintendents to ensure witness attendance.

Farhad said he could not confirm whether those directives were followed.

SC lawyer Shishir Manir, head of legal research firm Law Lab, said the low number of judges is a

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BNP's name being misused for personal gains: Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday accused “vested quarters” of using BNP's name to serve personal interests and create unrest in various offices, including the Income Tax office.

“Those carrying out movements in BNP's name at the Income Tax office or other departments are not part of BNP. They are doing it for their own benefit,” he said, reports UNB.

Rizvi made the remarks at a discussion organised by Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Front at Bhasani Bhaban in the capital's Nayapaltan, marking the Rath Yatra festival.

He warned that some individuals are trying to introduce new activities using BNP's name to establish dominance in different sectors and government offices.

“All who believe in the nationalist ideology should stay alert. Tarique Rahman is taking strict action against them, but some are still tarnishing BNP's image,” he said.

Rizvi said he heard of one individual who is reportedly misusing BNP's

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Keep ports under state control

Demand leftist parties, begin Dhaka-Ctg road march

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A coalition of leftist parties and organisations under the banner of “Anti-Imperialist Patriotic People” has begun a road march from Dhaka to Chattogram to protest foreign control of ports as well as other demands centred on national sovereignty and anti-imperialism.

The march kicked-off yesterday morning with an inaugural rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

The coalition's four key demands are: ensuring that the management of Chattogram Port, including the New Mooring Terminal, remains under state control; scrapping any plans to establish a transit corridor through Rakhine; cancelling the agreement with Elon Musk's



Starlink project; and terminating all unequal treaties with imperialist powers, particularly the United States and India, and making them public.

As part of the demonstration, activists displayed placards with slogans such as “Interim government is the gatekeeper of imperialism,” “Ports and corridors are not for foreigners,” “Scrap all anti-national unequal deals,” and “Cancel the agreement with US company Starlink”.

Speaking at the rally, Ruhin Hossain Prince, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), said, “We believe the aspirations of the 1971 Liberation War and the 2024 people's uprising are rooted in the desire for true democracy, free from imperialist dominance. We

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IRREGULARITIES IN POLLS

Ex-CEC Nurul Huda placed on fresh four-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed former chief election commissioner KM Nurul Huda on a four-day fresh remand for interrogation in a case filed over alleged irregularities and bias during the past national elections.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Awlad Hossain Muhammad Jonaid issued the order after police sought a 10-day remand, said a sub-inspector posted at the court.

Huda was brought to the courtroom around 3:40pm under tight security.

He remained silent and appeared visibly upset during the 45-minute hearing. In the dock, his helmet and handcuffs were removed, though he wore a police vest.

Around 4:35pm, he was taken back to the lockup of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court after the hearing ended.

During the hearing, Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi described the case as “nationally significant”, saying the actions of three former CECs “gave birth to fascism” in the country, leading to the loss of thousands of lives.

Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi argued that elections are complex operations, and since none of the accused have admitted guilt, further remand is necessary.

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Patients being moved to nearby branches of Mamata Maternity Clinic after a fire broke out at its Lalkhan Bazar branch in Chattogram yesterday afternoon, reportedly triggered by an oxygen cylinder leak in the operation theatre. Though no casualties were reported, panic spread quickly following the explosion. Two firefighting units brought the blaze under control.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

JULY UPRISING

District committees formed to implement programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed a 35-member committee in each district, headed by the deputy commissioner, to implement the official programmes marking the student-led mass uprising.

The committees, titled “District-Level Implementation Committee for the Observance of Mass Uprising Days of Students and People,” include top officials from almost all government and non-government sectors in the respective districts.

A circular in this regard was issued on Thursday by the Cabinet Division.

Among others, the members of the committee will include the district civil surgeon, superintendent of police, president of the district press club, president of the district

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