



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: PID

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 5 years
- 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 superintendents of police 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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Dengue cases triple in June

Weak mosquito control to blame

HELEMUL ALAM

Dengue cases have nearly tripled in June compared to May, largely due to inadequate anti-mosquito drives across the country.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), a total of 9,065 dengue patients have been hospitalised so far this year as of Thursday. Of them, 4,720 cases were reported in June alone, with three days still remaining in the month. In comparison, May saw only 1,773 cases.

Dengue hospitalisations were relatively low earlier this year – 1,161 in January, 374 in February, 336 in March, and 701 in April – before the sharp rise in May (1,773) and June (4,720). Notably, cases outside Dhaka remain disproportionately high, especially in Barguna district.

Experts have warned that immediate action is needed nationwide, particularly outside the capital, to control the spread of Aedes mosquitoes, which transmit the disease.

Entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar said

the trend shows a geometric rise in cases. "From May to June, the number of cases tripled. If this continues, cases could rise four to five times in July, and by August, it could be ten times higher than in May," he said.

Bashar explained that when both Aedes mosquitoes and infected patients increase together, the disease spreads rapidly.

"Despite repeated warnings, authorities have not taken necessary action," he added.

He stressed that the government must prioritise larviciding and eliminating mosquito breeding sources instead of focusing on fogging. "Fogging should only be used in hotspots with confirmed cases. General fogging is ineffective, yet it's still the primary method used," he said.

Bashar recommended using Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs), which remain effective for up to three months. "These should be used along with larvicides. In places where chemicals aren't needed, people must clean and overturn water containers to stop breeding," he said.

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Keep ports under state control
Demand leftist parties, begin Dhaka-Ctg road march

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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PHOTO: COLLECTED

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, Ruhul 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.

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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