

Justice Ansar Ali's death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 30th death anniversary of Justice Muhammad Ansar Ali.



On July 5, 1995, Justice Muhammad Ansar Ali, a renowned lawyer and experienced judge of Bangladesh Supreme Court, passed away while on duty.

On his 30th death anniversary, Qurankhwani and a doa mahfil will be held at his village home in Naogaon district and also at Banani graveyard in Dhaka.

All are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Arrested

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Khalid said, citing police intelligence.

Among those detained, five have been charged with being part of a terrorist organisation, while 15 will be deported. Another 16 remain in police custody pending further investigation, with further arrests expected, Mohd Khalid said.

A total of between 100 and 150 people are suspected to be involved in the network, he said.

"We will deport those with minimal involvement back to their home country, while those with greater involvement will be charged under Malaysian laws," he said.

Key roads lie

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paved roads, 16 kilometres of semi-paved roads, and 76 kilometres of brick-paved roads. At present, around 65 kilometres of roads are in poor condition due to prolonged lack of repairs.

Contacted, Md Mizanur Rahman, incumbent administrator of the municipality, said, "The previous mayor left the municipality's fund nearly exhausted. We are working to repair all the damaged roads in phases. Repair works have already been initiated for several roads."



Workers plant Aman seeds in the Lakutia area of Barishal Sadar under the supervision of the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation. A worker can earn around Tk 700 for an eight-hour workday, from 8:00am to 3:00pm. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

BARISHAL HOSPITAL

Overcrowded medicine ward puts patients at risk

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Patients and their families have alleged severe mismanagement, overcrowding, and poor healthcare services at the medicine ward of Barishal's Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH), which is currently operating out of a cramped five-storey building not originally designed to serve patients.

Harunur Rashid from Jurakathi village in Jhalakathi's Rajapur upazila brought a stroke patient to SBMCH on Monday. By Tuesday afternoon, he had yet to secure a bed for the critically ill patient, who was instead placed on the second floor of the makeshift medicine ward.

Another attendant, Abdur Razzak from Mehendiganj, said he had been desperately searching for a bed for two days without success.

"The elevators rarely work, and the number of patients is overwhelming. The bathrooms are filthy, and the entire ward feels like a garbage dump," he said.

Although the ward has a capacity of 300, it currently houses between 700 and 800 patients on a daily basis, several patients and hospital staff said.

The overcrowding has resulted in a serious decline in healthcare standards, with many patients receiving little to no medical attention, they alleged.

On June 30, family members of several patients formed a human chain in front of the hospital, demanding the medicine ward be relocated to the hospital's main building.

They claimed the ward's current



location is unsafe and unfit to handle such a large volume of patients.

According to hospital sources, the ward currently accommodates patients suffering from dengue, kidney ailments, abdominal pain, and a variety of other conditions.

Initially set up in 2022 to treat Covid-19 patients temporarily, the five-storey building was later converted into the medicine ward.

However, it lacks the necessary infrastructure and environmental standards for patient care.

"The building was originally intended for administrative use, operation theatres, and storage," said a hospital official.

Hospital Director Brig Gen AKM Mashiul Munir said while some improvements have been made, including adding new windows, the ward remains ill-suited for patient care.

"This building was never meant for housing patients. Around half of the hospital's total patients are currently in this ward. It lacks natural light and airflow, making it an unhealthy environment," he said.

He said the issue will be placed before the hospital's academic council and governing committee to explore possible solutions.

According to the Divisional Health Office, 442 dengue patients were admitted across Barishal division in the last 24 hours, of whom 79 are currently being treated at SBMCH.

Hospital sources confirmed that at least 700 patients including all dengue patients are being treated in the medicine ward, further straining the already overwhelmed facility.

Fayzul finds

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swayed gently in the courtyard, ducks paddled in a nearby pond, and inside the mushroom shed, neat rows of white-brown mushrooms sat in packages on racks, a testament to precision and care.

"I heard about the health benefits of mushroom from some relatives who live abroad, and it inspired me to chase this initiative. Now it has blossomed into a thriving business," said Fayzul.

"At first, some people mocked me, but now those very individuals come to witness and inquire about my success," he smiled.

Today, his farm houses nearly 1,000 spawn bags and produces three to four kilogrammes of mushrooms daily. He sells them wholesale at Tk 300 per kg. The enterprise has also created jobs -- six to seven local men and women now work with him.

"It gives me immense satisfaction to know that my initiative is being able to help others around me," he added.

Looking ahead, Fayzul plans to scale up. "I expect to increase the farm's mushroom production to 10 to 12 kg per day in the coming winter, as cooler temperatures are ideal for mushroom cultivation," he said.

His journey has already begun to inspire others. Aralat Hossain, a local youth, said he too plans to learn mushroom farming and follow in Fayzul's footsteps.

Parul Begum, acting chairman of the local union parishad, commended Fayzul's efforts. "Through young entrepreneurs like Fayzul Gani, sustainable mushroom farming is becoming popular," she said.

Mosammat Tania Tabassum, upazila agriculture officer in Akhaura, said, "The government's mushroom expansion project is ready to support promising and dedicated young agro-entrepreneurs like Fayzul Gani. His success should inspire other unemployed youth to pursue similar productive ventures," she said.

Some reforms needed

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"People and properties are being subjected to mob violence. People are now killing their own party men over personal interest," he said.

"Mob culture" is not a recent phenomenon in the country, the Jamaat chief said, adding that it has been there since 1972.

"Jamaat does not support mob culture. It goes against the rule of law," he said.

Outlining his vision of governance, he said, "We want to build Bangladesh in the spirit of the Charter of Madinah. We want a Shariah-based governance system where justice and humanity will be the cornerstone."

The Jamaat chief also issued a warning against authoritarianism. "The people have already toppled a fascist regime. They will not allow another one to rise."

Pointing to the condition of women, he said, "Today, women have neither dignity nor security. If we come to power, they will have both. Our ultimate goal is to establish a humane Bangladesh."

Coming down heavily on

the past regime, Shafiqur said, "Awami League is a group devoid of political etiquette. Their downfall was the result of their misdeeds. If others fail to learn from this, they will meet an even worse fate."

"This is our message to those dreaming of elections like the ones during the Awami League's regime: we will turn your dream into a nightmare. No administrative coup will be allowed to take place," the Jamaat ameer said.

"Our fight will continue as long as fascism exists," he said.

Calling for unity, the Jamaat chief urged the youth to take the lead. "We want to move forward with people from all communities and faiths. We don't believe in the division of majority and minority."

"We reject those who have used the minority narrative as a cover to loot. Every person born in this land has equal rights. We don't want to be rulers, but public servants."

Several top central and local leaders of Jamaat also spoke at the rally attended by its leaders and activists from all eight districts of the Rangpur division.

CU teacher's

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arrange a promotion board for Dr Kushal despite there being allegations against him.

"When we attempted to meet the vice chancellor, we were told that we could not enter without Dr Kushal's permission. This alone raised serious concerns. It proves that the current administration does not believe in the ideals of the July movement."

After around three hours, the agitating students withdrew the protest when the administration announced that the promotion board for Dr Kushal was suspended.

Fear grips Cumilla

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said, on Thursday, an announcement was made from the loudspeaker of the local mosque, instigating the attack.

"The announcement urged people to evict the drug den from the area," said Moshir.

Abdul Wahab, another villager, claimed the same.

No case was filed and no arrest was made until the filing of this report at 9:00pm yesterday.

However, the OC said the victims' family members were preparing to file one.

Cumilla Medical College Hospital sources said the bodies of the victims were handed over to the family members after autopsies.

Job seekers block

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injuring three to four policemen," the OC said.

The protesters are demanding an increase in the number of posts in the 44th BCS; publication of written and viva marks alongside the final results; an

opportunity to revise cadre choices before final results are announced;

cancellation or revision of the Non-Cadre Regulations 2023 to ensure jobs for all vva-qualified candidates, and a ban on recommending the same candidate twice for the same cadre.

Wrongdoers

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leaders and activists from different wings of the party for involvement in criminal groups or dishonest acts.

"As soon as we found out, we took action right away," he said, stressing that the party leadership is firmly following a zero-tolerance policy.

"Anyone who uses violence -- whether inside the party or with others -- will face punishment. Since August 5, we have responded quickly to such cases," he added.

Demanding fair elections as soon as possible, Rizvi said, "Only a free and fair election can show how much support the BNP really has."

The forgotten boys of Mirpur

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report saying it was indeed a murder, but no suspects could be identified.

One of the families, losing faith in the investigation, filed another murder case with a Dhaka court in December 2015, hoping the court would be able to deliver justice. But it was "summarily dismissed" in April 2018, as per the court records.

Sub Inspector Md Rafiquzzaman Mia of the Detective Branch, who investigated the case, wrote in his May 2017 final report, "The names and addresses of the perpetrators could not be identified, and the chances of locating and arresting them in the near

future are very slim."

The court accepted the report but said the police would reopen the case and press charges if suspects were identified.

According to the final report, the victims were caught in a shooting by their own group while targeting a chasing mob. They were then allegedly beaten by the mob before police rescued them and took them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where they later died.

The report claimed that a group of 10 miscreants, including the victims, opened fire on locals as they were being chased during an attempted arson attack on vehicles using petrol and cocktail bombs amid a

hartial called by the BNP led 20-party alliance. The police report labelled the boys as "mischievous bombers".

However, several media outlets, quoting eyewitnesses, said no mob beating occurred around the area that day.

Meanwhile, family members and locals claimed the boys occasionally attended political programmes but insisted they had no criminal history.

Police initially told the media the boys were critically injured in a mob beating and died early on February 23 at DMCH. The case filed by police, however, stated that three "unidentified arsonists" were beaten and shot dead by a mob.

Biodiversity entangled in deadly

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campus), Dairy Farm, Bishmile Lake, and other surrounding low-lying wetlands.

Auritro Sattar, an environmental science student at JU and a wildlife photographer who has extensively researched the issue, shared alarming findings.

His surveys recorded 25 China Duari nets in the Gerua-Sindhuria area between September and December 2023. By August 2024, the number had risen to 45.

"A significant number of snakes -- including Painted Keelbacks, Smooth-scaled Water Snakes, Checkered Keelbacks, and even Monocled Cobras -- were found fatally trapped," said Auritro. "The fine mesh tears their bodies as they try to escape, causing a slow, painful death."

Thousands of snakes die this way, especially during the monsoon when water levels fluctuate.

He also noted that the nets endanger different fish species by capturing fish hatchlings and juveniles, disrupting breeding cycles and population recovery. Fish-eating birds like pond herons and kingfishers have also been found fatally entangled.

The impact on migratory birds has been no less severe. "In 2023, I documented the first-ever sighting of an Eastern Water Rail in Savar, but it never returned later. Illegal fishing practices like these are driving migratory birds away from our wetlands," Auritro said.

Some locals, however, defended the use of these nets. A fisherman from Sindhuria, speaking anonymously, said, "These nets can catch fish of all sizes

and are easy to use. My catch has increased significantly since I started using this."

Several JU staff members were also seen using these nets within campus lakes.

Contacted, Abul Kashem, deputy registrar of JU's estate branch, acknowledged the issue. "Some of the university lakes are leased for fish farming, and some leaseholders are using China Duari nets. Since this poses a serious ecological threat, we plan to issue a notice instructing them to stop," he said.

Prof Amir Hossain Bhuiyan of Environmental Science Department at JU said, "Our aquatic habitats are deteriorating rapidly due to the widespread use of these nets. Without immediate action, the biodiversity and ecological balance of the JU campus will be irreversibly damaged," he warned.

Can Bangladesh retain its foothold

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MORE THAN JUST TRADE

Bangladesh, unlike Vietnam, has been negotiating under a multilateral framework, seeking lower duties on the basis of WTO's Most Favoured Nation (MFN) principles. But the US appears to prefer bilateral deals that mix trade policy with broader strategic alignment.

"The tariff negotiations aren't solely about trade," Razzaque noted. "Geopolitical considerations are also part of the equation."

"The US import volume will decline if the tariff rate increases," Razzaque

added, cautioning that the consequences of inaction would be felt on both sides.

If the worst-case scenario materialises and the tariff hits 53 percent, Bangladeshi suppliers -- many of whom send 40-80 percent of their production to the US -- would find themselves in an unsustainable position. Margins are already razor-thin, and production costs are rising.

To survive, "garment suppliers must be more strategic in marketing and secure better prices from buyers," said Ehsan. "That's the only way to remain competitive in the current supply chain environment."

But pricing leverage is difficult to obtain without certainty. Importers are wary of taking long-term positions when the tariff regime is in flux.

US retailers, who bear the brunt of tariffs, may also pass on higher costs to consumers -- fueling inflation and dragging down demand.

To avoid this, Bangladesh must urgently pivot its strategy. That includes mobilising US-based lobby groups, engaging retailers and sourcing associations, and directly appealing to decision-makers in Washington. So far, offers to lift import duties on US cotton, LNG, aircraft, and other products have failed

to clinch a deal.

"Bangladesh has the capacity. What it now needs is a breakthrough," said Ehsan.

Without that breakthrough, the price of delay could be steep. Already, the apparel sector faces over \$1 billion in annual tariff payments at the current 16 percent rate. If the rate climbs to 53 percent, the blow could be far worse -- not only for exporters in Dhaka, but also for brands and consumers across the US.

In the end, as Razzaque put it, "It is still not clear what is going on or what may happen. But if the deal is not secured soon, both sides risk losing."

Cop attends Jamaat event

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need to explain -- you've read it in the newspapers. Now the time has come for us to act."

"We want to elect those who are patriotic and dedicated to the country and people. That's why the youth, especially students, must work in their localities, increase the number of activists, reach out to honest people, and make them understand," he continued.

"As members of the police service, our duty is to serve the people -- those who are patriotic. We are not here for those who are pushing the country towards fascism. We are here for peace-loving people," he also said.

"I am assigned to this area. Stay connected with me -- I will do my best from my position. A new

opportunity has emerged through this revolution, allowing us to elect honest and capable individuals... We pray for the success of this programme," he added.

His remarks, captured in a video clip that went viral on social media, triggered a backlash, with many questioning the political neutrality of the police.

Some compared it to previous instances in which law enforcers under the then Awami League government were seen participating in political programmes.

Asked about the matter, AC Shah Alam claimed that the video clip circulating on social media did not include his full speech and only showed the part where he spoke about elections.

"I attended the programme because it was held at an orphanage. I spoke after they [Jamaat

leaders] insisted. At first I talked about the orphans and the food distribution, but that part wasn't included in the clip," he claimed.

"Only the segment where I spoke about electing honest people got shared, portraying the remark as political," he added.

Contacted, Jashim Uddin, deputy commissioner of DMP's Lalbagh Division, said they were aware of the incident and were looking into the matter.

PRAYER TIMING		JULY 5	
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10		12-45	5-00
JAMAAT 4-45		1-15	5-15
		6-55	8-17
		7-00	8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION			