

NEWS

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, Qurankhwan 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.

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.

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.

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 Mashru 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.

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.

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

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