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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

JULY ATROCITIES

8-10 cases may be disposed of before polls

Says Tajul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ICT Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam yesterday said they have sufficient evidence and hoped that eight to 10 cases related to the July uprising would be disposed of before the February elections.

Priority will be given to prosecuting the masterminds behind the July atrocities, he said while speaking at a discussion organised by the Dacca Institute of Research and Analytics at a city hotel.

He said evidence collection has been a significant challenge, requiring investigators to travel all over the country to find victims, witnesses, and gather hospital and university records.

"We have only 23 investigation officers and 16 prosecutors under two tribunals handling this responsibility."

Tajul said more obstacles arose when arrest warrants were issued. "Most perpetrators are from the police force. But it's very difficult for a force to arrest its own members. It was therefore difficult to make many arrests at first."

So far, charges have been framed against 227 people, but fewer than 80 arrests have been made.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8



Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, Liberation War Museum Member Secretary and Trustee Mofidul Hoque, and Trustee Sarwar Ali, among others, at the 'Bazlur Rahman Memorial Award 2024' ceremony for journalism on the Liberation War at the museum auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. Shahadat Parvez, photography editor at the daily Desh Rupantor, received the award in the print category, while Shafiqul Islam, head of news at Ekattor Television, won in the electronic media category.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Pvt sector, bigger budget vital for better healthcare

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Greater private sector involvement and increased budget allocation are essential to improve healthcare in Bangladesh, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

At the programme, a top BNP leader said if voted to power, they would deregulate the private sector. In contrast, an aide to the chief adviser stressed that the government must regulate healthcare to protect public interest.

In some places, there are buildings but no doctors; in others, there are doctors but no nurses or technicians. Coordination is necessary, and involving the private sector can help improve the situation.

The views were shared at the Bangladesh Health Conclave 2025, organised by the Bangla daily Bonik Barta, in association with Square Hospital Ltd, United Healthcare, LABAID, and Beacon Pharmaceuticals PLC as sponsors.

Health experts, officials, businessmen, and politicians attended the event, held at a city hotel.

Asif Saleh, executive director of BRAC Bangladesh, said out-of-pocket health expenditure in Bangladesh is Tk 74 — one of the highest in the world.

He said thousands of crores have been spent on infrastructure projects, but primary healthcare has not received enough attention. He called for greater investment in primary healthcare.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Neglect, underfunding cripple urban healthcare

Speakers tell Urban Youth Conference 2025,
demand transformative changes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urban health — particularly for low-income communities — remains one of the most neglected, least prioritised, and underfunded areas of Bangladesh's healthcare system, said speakers at a conference yesterday.

They pointed to major gaps in the country's urban healthcare system, especially in primary care, noting that services for more than 70 million city residents are not as well-structured as those available in rural areas.

Speakers highlighted the need for ward-based General Practitioner (GP) units to ensure primary care, disease prevention, and basic treatment services.

The discussion took place at the Bangladesh Urban Youth Conference 2025, themed "Youth Voice for Sustainable Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)", organised by Ipas Bangladesh at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in the capital's Farmgate.

The event was supported by the Government of Canada through the Health Bridge Foundation.

At the conference, youth volunteers presented the "Dhaka Declaration 2025", calling for transformative

changes in urban healthcare.

They urged the development of a comprehensive strategy to make health services inclusive for all urban citizens.

The declaration recommended establishing primary healthcare in

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increased budget allocation for urban healthcare
- Zonal health offices, ward-based primary healthcare centres
- 100–150 bed hospitals in each city corporation zone
- Adolescent, women-friendly healthcare centres
- Reactivation of reproductive health call centres
- Govt health insurance schemes for ultra-poor

every neighbourhood, provided only by registered medical professionals under a regulatory framework and overseen by a dedicated authority to ensure quality.

Key proposals include establishing

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

Support Desk launched for safety of journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Support Desk aimed at strengthening the legal protection of journalists in Bangladesh has been launched with support from Unesco's Global Media Defence Fund (GMDf).

The initiative was inaugurated virtually yesterday by Susan Vize, Unesco representative to Bangladesh, at an event held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU).

The programme, organised by media

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Our concept of secularism differs from Western ideals

Speakers tell Bengal Delta Conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secularism is not a neutral or indigenous idea but was historically imposed by Western powers, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They said Bangladesh's 1972 Constitution framed secularism as non-communalism, which is distinct from the Western separation of state and religion.

They made the remarks at a session, titled "Modernity and Religion: Interactions and Contestations", organised by the Dacca Institute of Research & Analytics on the last day of the two-day Bengal Delta Conference at a city hotel.

Prof Sayed Nizar of Jahangirnagar University noted that Bangladesh's 1972 Constitution, influenced by the Soviet bloc during the Liberation War, banned communalism and political misuse of religion while ensuring equal status for all faiths.

He said national debate should return to this consensus rather than adopt Eurocentric models.

Prof Irfan Ahmed of Ibn Haldun University said empires like the Mughal and Ottoman had traditions of multi-community coexistence without calling it secularism.

He warned that uncritical adoption of "Eurocentric concepts" like secularism, modernity, or even religion risks intellectual dependency and undermines genuine political freedom.

Prof Maryam Wasif Khan of Lahore University

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Rita Khan
(1943 – 2022)

In loving memory
All those you left behind



A small boat glides gently through the waters of Bhatshala village in Ashtagram, Kishoreganj, yesterday. Propelled by oars, the vessel reflects a serene, timeless scene in Bangladesh's riverine landscape, where boats remain essential for travel and fishing.

PHOTO: TAFSILUL AZIZ

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