

Dr Ibrahim’s death anniv today

CITY DESK

Today is the 36th death anniversary of National Professor Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, founder of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, said a press release.



On this day in 1989, he died of cardiac arrest at his residence.

To mark the occasion, wreaths will be laid at his Banani grave at 8:30am by various associate organisations of the association. From 8:00am to 11:00am, free diabetes diagnosis will be offered at the BIRDEM General Hospital complex as well as at centres adjacent to BIHS General Hospital and NHN.

In addition, a blood donation programme will be held at the Transfusion Medicine Department (Blood Bank), 3rd floor (Room 326) of BIRDEM Hospital.

A discussion and question-and-answer session between specialist doctors and patients will take place at the BIRDEM Auditorium (3rd floor) at 10:00am, followed by a memorial meeting at 11:30am.

Besides, a doa mahfil will be held at the BIRDEM mosque after the Asr prayers.

Prof Mohammed Noman’s death anniversary

CITY DESK

The 29th death anniversary of Prof Mohammed Noman, an educationist and former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, will be observed today, said a press release.

On the occasion, the family members of Prof Noman have arranged Qurankhwani and a milad mahfil. Besides, food will be distributed among the destitute in orphanages, and special prayers will be offered at mosques.

Professor Noman Smriti Foundation has chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the death anniversary. The recipient of the “Ekushey Padak” and the President’s Gold Medal, Prof Noman’s relatives, well-wishers, and students are requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.



Birendranath Das works on making an ektara in Khulna. For decades, he has been crafting traditional instruments such as ektaras, tablas, and harmoniums. Using a wooden body, he can make up to two ektaras a day, which sell for Tk 300-800. The photo was taken on the city’s Sir Iqbal Road yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Old bricks for new monastery

Contractor uses bricks from abandoned school building in construction project, allege locals

MONG SING HAI MARMA, Bandarban

In the Galengya union of Ruma upazila, Bandarban, allegations have emerged that bricks from an abandoned government primary school are being used in the construction of a new Buddhist monastery.

Locals claim the contractor reused old bricks from the school instead of bringing new ones for the project, which is funded by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board.

During an on-site visit, it was observed that the walls of the Yathuramu Para Government Primary School building had been completely dismantled. Bricks from the demolished walls were stacked near the under-construction monastery, with only a few skeletal pillars remaining.

Many of the bricks still bore marks of cement and sand from their previous use, and broken bricks had been mixed into concrete, which was also visible at the site.

Principal U Pandit Thero (Bhante) of the monastery said, “The old monastery was in a very fragile state and could have collapsed at any moment, so rebuilding it was necessary. However, I saw that the contractor and workers used bricks from the old school building.”

Local resident Aungsainu Marma said, “Contractor Kamal Pasha didn’t bring a single new brick. All the bricks came from the dismantled school. Initially, they even used sand from the Sangu River, but after our objections, they brought some sand from Bandarban.”

Mohammad Mohsin Chowdhury, assistant engineer of the Chittagong



Hill Tracts Development Board in Ruma, said, “We visited the site early in the construction phase and stopped the work. We instructed the contractor to bring new bricks. Later, I heard that new bricks were transported by boat. However, I am not aware if permission was obtained from the education department to demolish the school building.”

He said the project was approved in the 2023-24 fiscal year at a cost of Tk 40 lakh. The new monastery is a two-storey building with a concrete ground floor and a tin-shed upper floor.

Executive Engineer Mohammad Yasir Arafat of the development board’s Bandarban office said if the allegations are found to be true after an on-site inspection, appropriate action will be taken against the contractor.

Contacted, District Primary Education Officer Mohammad Mofazzal Hossain Khan said his office had no prior information about the demolition of Yathuramu Para Government Primary School. After seeing photos of the site, he instructed the upazila education officer to conduct an urgent investigation and submit a report.

Asked, contractor Kamal Pasha said, “Although villagers suggested using bricks from the abandoned school building, I did not use them. Since trucks could not reach the site due to the road conditions, I transported materials like concrete with great difficulty by boat through Bolipara.”

When informed that old bricks and brick chips were found piled near the monastery, he abruptly hung up the phone. Further attempts to contact him went unanswered.

Political power

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sectors following last year’s mass uprising, which sought to build a society based on equity.

The head of the Berlin-based watchdog said, “We want transparency on both sides: money going in and money going out. Party and campaign financing must be public, not only reviewed by regulators but also available on a public platform. Spending also needs to be transparent, so citizens can check discrepancies between reported expenditures and reality.

“Only then can we end the market for political power and return elections to what they should be: competitions between ideas and projects for society.”

Valérian acknowledged the reform initiatives, but said the principle has to be simple: positions of power must serve the people, not be used to extract profit.

On the upcoming national polls in February, he said elections are not meant to grant unchecked power to one person or party.

“Profound reform is needed to dismantle entrenched corruption. This must continue regardless of which party wins.”

He added that elections must be peaceful and inclusive, free from violence, intimidation, or harassment of voters. “All communities, including remote and indigenous populations, must be able to participate freely, without vote buying or coercion.”

Asked about his meetings with interim government officials, Valérian said he emphasised institutional independence, transparency, and sustained reforms.

“What I emphasised was that the world is watching Bangladesh. Last year’s revolution was unique, a revolution for integrity, and the reforms underway are ambitious and necessary.”

He highlighted two urgent priorities: separating the judiciary from the executive and adopting beneficial ownership transparency to prevent corruption.

“These must be put in place before the February elections. The ACC also needs to function as an independent instrument, not a partisan one as it used to be.”

Beneficial ownership involves disclosing the real individuals who control or benefit from companies and other entities. In Bangladesh, corruption often links political elites, businesses, bureaucracy, and law enforcement.

Asked if dismantling such a system is realistic, Valérian said the courage people showed last year gives him hope.

“Despite repression, people stood up

and ousted corrupt leaders, who had to flee. Bangladesh is now working to recover their stolen assets. This proves corruption is not as fatalistic or entrenched as many may think.”

He said that during the previous regime, an estimated \$16 billion was stolen annually from Bangladesh. Recently, £185 million was confiscated in London following a joint call by TI Bangladesh, TI UK, and Spotlight on Corruption.

“This illustrates the global economy of corruption, which may seem abstract but amounts to \$1 trillion annually — public money stolen from many countries and invested in just a few.”

“When public money is missing, it is missing from everything: health, education, infrastructure. And crucially, it is also missing for climate action, which is a matter of survival for a country like Bangladesh.”

Asked what global legal framework is needed to stop developed countries from accepting dirty money, François Valérian said the responsibility lies with all nations.

“The mechanism is complex. Leaders no longer carry suitcases of cash to Swiss banks. The money is hidden behind legal entities. This is why beneficial ownership transparency is crucial. Each entity has real owners — often powerful figures — hidden behind layers of trusts and shell companies.”

He said this is why TI Bangladesh is pushing for the adoption of the draft beneficial ownership bill.

“Offshore centres — Singapore, Dubai, Hong Kong — play a role, as do poorly regulated cryptocurrency platforms.

“Contrary to the hype, cryptocurrencies are often used to launder dirty money because they obscure ownership before being converted back into dollars, pounds, or euros for investment in luxury real estate, cars, or capital markets.

“This doesn’t create value. Stolen public money could fund health, education, or infrastructure, but instead it inflates property prices in London or Paris. It even harms citizens in recipient countries while undermining global development goals.”

Valérian reiterated that all anti-corruption bodies, including the ACC and the judiciary, must remain free from political interference. Appointment and oversight processes for civil servants, investigators, and judges, he said, must ensure independence throughout the system.

“This was a clear demand of the citizens who risked their lives last year. They did not sacrifice to return to a system of partisan manipulation.”

Eviction drive faces Will ensure student voice in JU syndicate

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Police and army personnel later intervened, while former Cox’s Bazar-3 MP Lutfor Rahman Kajol arrived and persuaded the protesters to disperse.

The drive followed a High Court order issued on August 24, directing the government to identify all encroachers along the Bakkhali river and demolish illegal structures within four months. BIWTA and joint forces began the campaign on Monday.

On the fifth day of the operation yesterday, bulldozers were scheduled to enter Nuniachhara, but protesters blocked the road. Amid the standoff, BIWTA Port Department Director AKM Arif Uddin, who was leading the drive,

left the scene with other officials and could not be reached for comment.

During the protest, BNP leader and former MP Kajol said eviction should only continue once the river boundary has been clearly demarcated. “We respect the High Court order,” he said. “But the authorities must explain the ruling to the people and clarify their plan.”

Earlier in the week, BIWTA also faced resistance in Peshkar Para on the second and third days of the operation.

Elias Khan, officer-in-charge of Cox’s Bazar Sadar Model Police Station, confirmed that two cases have been filed against 650 people for obstructing the drive.

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He is contesting the Jucu polls, scheduled for September 11, from the left-leaning “Sampriti’r Oikya” panel.

Amartya, former president of JU Chhatra Union, said their panel aims to transform JU into a world-class university. “We have identified key issues that must be addressed. We believe we are the right people to build that foundation,” he said.

“Our panel unites people from diverse perspectives and ideologies. That is our strength,” he also said.

“While Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League appear on campus alternately, and Shibir was absent for years, leftist student organisations have persisted in their

own unique way and consistently carried on with pro-student activities,” said the Jucu VP candidate.

If elected, Amartya said he would push for research opportunities, better funding, and coordination with other universities. “JU doesn’t provide students with skills for the job market and suffers from low research funding,” he said.

He said his panel wants to introduce positions such as teaching assistants, research assistants, and lab assistants, so students can earn without sacrificing study time.

“Right now, many are compelled to tutor, which eats into their academic hours,” he noted.

He also pointed to

infrastructure gaps, a lack of an academic master plan, and a poorly maintained calendar. “Students shouldn’t arrive in the morning only to find classes cancelled. We want to put an end to such practices,” he said.

Amartya highlighted his commitment to promoting cultural activities.

Calling Jahangirnagar the cultural capital, he said, “But since Chhatra Shibir resurfaced after 35 years last August, and due to some other issues, the cultural atmosphere has been stifled.”

Amartya believes students today are more politically aware, especially after the July uprising. “Votes can’t be bought with money. August 5 proved that those who

practise politics of terror and dominance will be expelled from campus,” he said, expressing optimism about winning.

Moreover, at Jahangirnagar, students focus less on national narratives and more on solving the university’s problems and protecting its environment,” he added.

On the long-awaited Jucu election, he said, “It didn’t take place for 33 years due to party influence. That influence remains this time as well.”

Teachers aligned with mainstream politics want to ensure their party-backed candidates win. They only want elections when they are confident of their candidate’s victory,” he added.

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Dialysis services near Ensuring students’ rights my first priority

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to a few old patients, but no new admissions have been made in the past month,” said Dr Pranoy Kanti Das, superintendent of Moulvibazar General Hospital.

He said, “Every year we get allocation in July but last year we did not get it. Still, we have managed for the last one year somehow with other budgets of pathology. But now if we do not get allocation, it will not be possible to run it anymore.”

“We have written to the health ministry requesting an allocation of Tk 1 crore to keep the service running for the next year. We hope the fund will arrive before services are fully suspended.”

Relatives of patients

expressed frustration and anxiety, saying they have no choice but to turn to expensive private providers or travel long distances to Sylhet city for treatment, incurring additional costs.

“I had to bring my patient from Sylhet and admit them to a private hospital in Moulvibazar. The cost is very high. I don’t know how long I can manage this,” said Akhlaq Hossain, a relative of a patient.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner Md Israil Hossain said steps are being taken to prevent a shutdown. “We have sent a letter to the health secretary seeking an allocation of Tk 1 crore. We are taking maximum efforts to keep the dialysis service running,” he said.

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being held. My first priority will be to ensure the polls are held regularly. To protect students’ rights, it is essential to keep the union institutionally active,” he told The Daily Star in a recent interview.

He argued that power in the university is concentrated in the hands of a few teachers. “A small syndicate of teachers controls almost the entire university. We want to reduce this imbalance and bring power closer to students.”

Siam stressed that his candidacy is not driven by personal ambition. “It comes from years of involvement in student struggles — anti-harassment and environmental movements, anti-corruption protests,

and the recent mass uprising. These experiences have connected me to the real crises and possibilities of the university.”

He said his panel reflects diversity. “Among our 25 candidates, female students are contesting beyond the six reserved seats, and we have an indigenous candidate as well. We have also included some who are not directly from our organisation.”

On his plans if elected, Siam pointed to one core issue. “At the root of all problems is the teachers’ syndicate. Because of them, automation has stalled, food quality hasn’t improved, and student politics has turned into hooliganism. Their negative influence is visible in accommodation, security, and transparency.

My aim is to deliver a strong jolt to this syndicate.”

He added that if this grip is broken, other office bearers of Jucu will be able to implement their manifestos more effectively. “If we can weaken their control, all members who made promises will actually be able to fulfil them.”

On the election atmosphere, the GS candidate expressed frustration. “Strict enforcement of the code of conduct has hampered direct engagement. We are not allowed to organise cultural events or debates. We aren’t getting the chance to talk to voters properly. This has taken away the real electoral environment.”

Still, Siam remains hopeful. Referring to July

uprising, he said, “Students’ political awareness has grown, and new leadership has emerged. Whoever wins will be part of the anti-fascist forces. I believe students will choose the right person — whether me or someone else.”

He also noted that his activism predates the uprising. “I did not enter politics after July. Long before that, I stood up to the administration and past fascist rulers. Since August 5 last year, many coordinators and leaders of the uprising across the country have faced allegations of moral and financial compromise. But the coordinators and leaders at Jahangirnagar have kept their clean image, and I am one of them. That is why I believe students trust me.”

BU students on hunger

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demanding infrastructural development, but the administration has turned a blind eye. Having no other option, we are on hunger strike, and we will continue until our demands are met,” said Amiya Mondal, a first-year student.

Since July 29, BU students have staged rallies, human chains, and road blockades to press home their demands.

The protesting students are demanding an increase in the number of academic buildings, dormitories, and other facilities; expansion of the campus area; introduction of new buses for students, and urgent repair of the existing transports.

BU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Taufiq Alam told The Daily Star that he expressed solidarity with the students.

“As a guardian, I stayed by their side throughout the night [during the hunger strike]. I agree with their demands,” said the VC yesterday morning.

“We are considering their demands, but it is not possible to meet all of them overnight. The official process for land acquisition to expand the campus has already begun,” he added.

He further said he urged the students to give them time for meeting their demands.

PRAYER
TIMING
SEPTEMBER 6

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:30	6:20	7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:25	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION