

Inqilab Moncho resumes blockade at Shahbagh

DU CORRESPONDENT

Inqilab Moncho yesterday resumed its blockade at Shahbagh, demanding a speedy trial over the killing of its slain spokesperson Sharif Osman Bin Hadi.

Ahead of Juma prayers, the platform called on mosques across the country to offer special prayers seeking justice for Hadi's murder.

After the prayers, protesters brought out a procession from the Dhaka University Central Mosque before occupying the Shahbagh intersection.

Addressing a rally at Shahbagh, Abdullah Al Jaber, member secretary of Inqilab Moncho, warned that the platform would launch a movement demanding the government's resignation if the trial is not completed within the stipulated timeframe.

He said Inqilab Moncho had set a 30 working day deadline for the government, with 22 days remaining.

"If the state fails to maintain law and order and its intelligence agencies cannot act, we do not want such a helpless authority ruling the country," he said.

He further demanded that by the seventh of the month, the killers and those behind the murder be identified and a charge sheet submitted.

Jaber also announced that once the trial formally begins, Inqilab Moncho will launch

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Inqilab Moncho resumed its blockade at Dhaka's Shahbagh yesterday, demanding a swift trial over the killing of its slain spokesperson and July frontliner Sharif Osman Bin Hadi.

PHOTO: STAR

Khaleda, a daughter of Dinajpur

Residents share stories of her formative years



MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, from Dinajpur

Residents of Dinajpur reflected on the childhood and adolescent years of former prime minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, as news of her demise spread across the country.

Born to Iskandar Majumder and Taiyaba Majumder, Khaleda Zia spent her formative years in Dinajpur before marrying the late president and BNP founder Ziaur Rahman.

Locals recalled her early life in the district with a sense of personal loss and pride, remembering her as a warm and respectful figure long before she rose to national prominence.

Khaleda Zia began her education at a missionary school and later enrolled at Dinajpur Government Girls'

High School, where she completed her matriculation examinations.

Her father, a businessman who migrated to Dinajpur from Jalpaiguri following the Partition, resided at Taiyaba Villa in the Balubari area. He served as president of the Dinajpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries from 1975 to 1984. Her mother, Taiyaba Majumder, widely known for her social work in the district, lived in the family home until her demise.

Following the announcement of Khaleda Zia's passing, BNP leaders and activists gathered at the party's local office in Jail Intersection. Recitations of the Holy Quran were organised there, as well as at her parents' residence, with supporters offering prayers for her departed soul.

Advocate Shamim Bin

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Trader found murdered at Savar home

UNB, Savar

A man was murdered by miscreants at his residence in Savar, said police yesterday.

The victim -- Delwar Hossain -- was a shoe trader by profession.

Police recovered his body last evening from his house at Baradeshi Uttarpura in Aminbazar, Savar.

Police said the miscreants gouged out Delwar's eyes and severed his genital.

In the afternoon, locals noticed his body lying inside the house and informed police.

The body was sent to the morgue of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in Dhaka for autopsy.

Police said Delwar used to buy shoes from different places and sell them to various shops. Savar Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Arman Ali said police are investigating the incident to identify those involved in the killing.

Access to safe drinking water a basic right: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court, in the full text of a verdict, has directed the state to provide free safe drinking water to all citizens of Bangladesh within the next 10 years.

"It is, hereby, declared that access to safe drinking water free of charge is a fundamental right of every citizen as per Article 32 of the Constitution. The state is therefore obligated to provide free, potable and safe water to every citizen and must take consistent, continuous and progressive measures to meet such obligations," the HC bench of Justice Md Ashraful Kamal and Justice Kazi Walil Islam observed in the full text, which was released recently.

The bench delivered the verdict on February 27 last year after hearing a suo motu (voluntary) rule issued in 2020 in this regard.

The HC bench directed the authorities concerned to take all necessary measures to protect all water reservoirs and safeguard all surface water and groundwater sources from pollution and destruction.

"The state is directed to undertake an assessment of the impact and risks of privatisation of water in Bangladesh, to undertake necessary measures to prevent further privatisation of water in Bangladesh, and, where possible, restore public ownership of water, water infrastructure and water management services," the court said.

Noting that it is not financially and institutionally possible for the state to provide safe drinking water to everyone at the initial stage, the court instructed the government to gradually provide access to safe

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Boatmen sit idle on their empty boats as people stay indoors amid biting cold. The ghat on a channel of the Buriganga in Kamrangirchar, usually used for commuting to Keraniganj, saw little activity. The photo was taken in Kamrangirchar, Dhaka, yesterday afternoon.

Kamal Hossain hospitalised after falling ill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Kamal Hossain, a key architect of the constitution of Bangladesh and emeritus president of Gonoforum, was admitted to Square Hospital in Dhaka yesterday after falling ill.

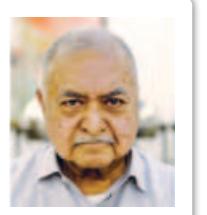
According to a party press release, the 88 year-old veteran politician is suffering from lung related complications.

Gonoforum General Secretary Mizanur Rahman has urged people across the country to pray for Dr Kamal's recovery.

The press release referred to an incident from last Wednesday, when Dr Kamal attended the funeral of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. It said his name was not included on the official guest list, which resulted in the Special Security Force (SSF) denying his vehicle access through the designated VIP route.

As a result, Dr Kamal had to travel a considerable distance through a dense crowd in a wheelchair, the release said, adding that he fell ill afterwards.

In October 2023, Dr Kamal was elected as Gono Forum's emeritus president after he resigned from the post of party president.



NEIR rollout triggers network issues, NID mismatches

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Many mobile phone users were unable to connect their handsets to mobile networks following the launch of the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR) system on Thursday.

At the same time, numerous users reported that an unusually high number of handsets were shown as registered against their NIDs, according to mobile operators and users.

Sujon Saha of Kurigram yesterday said he had been unable to use his handset since Thursday morning, despite receiving an SMS earlier confirming its registration in the NEIR database. He bought the handset on November 8 last year.



"I am currently using my SIM in another phone," he said.

Mobile operators said thousands of customers are facing similar problems.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Major General (retd) Md Emdad ul Bari said the commission has so far received a limited number of complaints and a technical team is working to resolve the issues.

He said the disruptions were mainly caused by two factors. First, December 31 was the deadline for deregistering SIMs held by users with more than 10 connections. Of the 90 lakh SIMs identified under such users, around 80 lakh have already

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