

Ensure justice for Hadi Inqilab Moncho reiterates demand during protest

UNB, Dhaka

Inqilab Moncho yesterday staged a demonstration demanding justice for its slain spokesperson, Sharif Osman bin Hadi, with a large number of protesters in attendance.

The protesters organised a procession from the central mosque premises of Dhaka University after Juma prayers.

During the demonstration, they chanted slogans, including "We want justice".

Earlier, on Thursday, a Dhaka court directed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to carry out further investigation into Sharif Osman Hadi's murder case.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Jashita Islam passed the order after the complainant expressed dissatisfaction with the initial investigation and submitted a naraji petition (a no-confidence motion) against the charge sheet, requesting a further probe.

The court also ordered the submission of the investigation report by January 20, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Deputy Commissioner of Prosecution Miah Mohammad Ashis Bin Hasan.

Osman Hadi, who was also a

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Inqilab Moncho brings out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, demanding justice for its slain spokesperson, Sharif Osman bin Hadi.

PHOTO: STAR

ISHWARDI SILK SEED FARM Once-profitable, NOW LEFT TO CRUMBLE



PHOTO: STAR

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The state-owned Ishwardi Silk Seed Farm, located along the Pabna-Ishwardi road, has largely fallen into abandonment due to years of neglect and lack of initiative.

According to the Bangladesh Silk Development Board, the Ishwardi Silk Seed Farm was established in 1962 on 107 bighas of land near the Alhaz Intersection area in Ishwardi upazila of Pabna.

Initially, mulberry trees were cultivated on 59 bighas of land, while the remaining 38 bighas were used to construct 19 buildings, including offices, residential quarters, silkworm rearing houses, a weaving shed and four ponds. At its peak, the facility employed 17 officers and staff members, along with more than a hundred labourers.

During a recent visit, large parts of the farm were found overgrown with vegetation, while most of the buildings were in a dilapidated condition. Currently, official activities are limited to a single room operated by just two officials, with one night guard assigned to patrol the premises.

Facilities such as the silkworm rearing house, cocoon production room, yarn production room and the laboratory have been severely damaged due to a lack of maintenance. In the absence of proper



monitoring, trees and other materials have also been stolen from the premises.

Farm officials said only 11 bighas of land are now being used for cultivating mulberry saplings, while the rest has remained neglected for years.

The farm's decline began in 2018 after staff salaries were stopped.

Md Khokon Ali, acting manager of the

farm, said the primary purpose of the facility is to rear silkworms and produce cocoons for manufacturing silk yarn.

"However, silkworm rearing has remained suspended for the last seven years due to a lack of efficient manpower and necessary funding," he said.

"Currently, we are only planting mulberry trees to supply saplings to other

silk farms across the country. There is no production work taking place at this large facility," he added.

According to farm officials, the institution, once profitable, began incurring losses, followed by disputes between workers and officials over salary arrears. Workers' salaries were eventually suspended in 2018, prompting officials to leave. Since then, the facility has continued to deteriorate.

Sources said around 50,000 mulberry trees were lost due to neglect, while the buildings have remained abandoned.

Md Insaf Ali, the night guard, said, "It's an impossible task to guard this vast area singlehandedly."

Local residents said the farm had once generated employment and supported the country's silk production. They blamed the current state of the facility on a lack of government initiative.

Md Tarikul Islam, deputy director of the BSDB regional office in Rajshahi, said efforts were underway to resume production at the farm.

"Due to a shortage of funds, we cannot begin operations. We are trying to arrange financing to restart silkworm rearing and silk cocoon production at the Ishwardi farm," he said.

Govt failed to ensure liveable, equitable cities Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The state and government have failed to take effective measures to make Bangladesh's cities liveable, equitable, and sustainable after the mass uprising, despite high public expectations, said urban planning experts yesterday.

Although the interim government approved the National Urban Policy and the Spatial Planning Ordinance in 2025, speakers said it largely failed to address major challenges in urban development, management, planning, and environmental protection in Dhaka and other divisional, district, upazila, and municipal areas.

The observations were made at an online planning and development analysis programme, titled "Urban Planning, Development, Environment and Equity in Bangladesh in 2025: Citizens' Expectations and Achievements", organised by the Institute for Planning and Development (IPD).

The government ignored citizen movements opposing the destruction of Panthakunja Park for a car-dependent expressway link road and cancelled the bus rapid transit (BRT) project from Gazipur to the airport, which was based on public transport.

DR ADIL MOHAMMED KHAN, IPD Executive Director

Speakers alleged that the government revised Dhaka's Detailed Area Plan (DAP) under pressure from business groups and failed to take strong action against encroachers of rivers, canals, wetlands, and waterbodies, as well as polluting industries in urban areas.

They also criticised the government for not addressing persistent problems such as traffic congestion, waterlogging, and noise pollution.

Speakers noted that the absence of ward councils weakened community-based problem-solving, while the government failed to involve neighbourhood residents in addressing local issues.

As a result, they said, the suffering of low-income and marginalised urban residents has increased.

They urged the next elected government to move away from mega projects and prioritise effective planning, coordinated initiatives, improved urban management, and meaningful public participation.

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Fuel station worker fatally run over for demanding payment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A fuel station worker was killed after allegedly being run over by an SUV in Rajbari's Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the incident occurred when the worker at Karim Filling Station demanded payment for fuel. The SUV driver reportedly attempted to leave without paying and ran over the worker, killing him on the spot.

The victim was identified as Ripon Saha, 30, son of Pabitra Saha of Sahapara in Rajbari's Sadar upazila.

Police later seized the vehicle and arrested its owner, Abul Hashem alias Sujan, 55, from his residence in Baro Muraripur village of the upazila yesterday afternoon, said Khondkar Ziaur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Rajbari Sadar Police Station.

The driver, Kamal Hossain, 43, was also detained from Banibhabha Nijpara village, said the police official.

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Farmers plant seedlings in a field at Rostumpur in Gainghat, Sylhet, hoping for a good yield as the Boro season begins. The photo was taken recently.

Two killed, three hurt in Cumilla clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Two people were killed and three others injured in a clash between two groups over establishing dominance in Cumilla's Nangalkot upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Delwar Hossain, 40, of resident of Aliyara village; and Saleh Ahmed, 60, former member of Boxganj Union Parishad, said police.

According to locals and police, there has been a longstanding rivalry between two groups in the area.

One group is led by Abu Khayer, a former member of the same union parishad, and another group led by Saleh Ahmed.

Both the groups locked in a deadly clash around 12:30pm yesterday, leaving

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Prolonged cold wave batters the north Tentulia records country's lowest temperature for 8th consecutive day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The ongoing cold wave sweeping across the northern region continued to intensify the suffering of poor and marginalised communities yesterday.

Panchagarh's Tentulia upazila recorded 8.5 degrees Celsius yesterday, the country's lowest temperature for the eighth consecutive day.

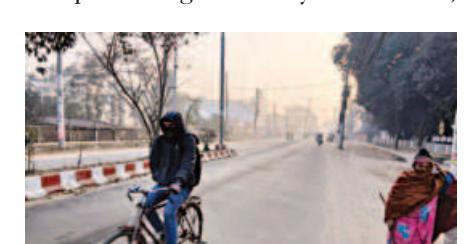
Meteorological officials say icy winds from the Himalayas are intensifying the cold spell across northern Bangladesh, particularly in Panchagarh and Thakurgaon districts, and the present conditions are expected to persist for the next few days.

Daily wage earners are the worst sufferers amid declining incomes, as they are facing difficulties in coping with the prolonged cold spell while earning their livelihoods.

Taherul Islam and Nazirul Islam of Buraburi Balabari village in Tentulia

upazila, who earn their livelihoods by extracting stones from the Mahananda River, said they have been forced to cut their working hours due to adverse weather.

Usually, they work from 8:00am to 5:00pm throughout the year. However,



for more than a week now, they have been going to the river only after 10:00am and wrapping up work by 3:00pm, as cold winds continue to blow throughout the day. As such, their daily income declined

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