

Over 40 lakh cases pending in lower courts

Law minister tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 4,041,924 cases remained pending in the lower courts as of December 31, 2025, Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman informed parliament yesterday.



He disclosed the figure while responding to a question from ruling party MP Jahandar Ali Miah during a question-answer session.

Outlining recent legal reforms, the minister said the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2026, introduces provisions for issuing summons via SMS and voice calls.

It also allows petitions and written replies to be filed through affidavits and enables direct cross-examination. In addition, decrees can now be issued within the main case without the need to file a separate suit.

Addressing the backlog, Asaduzzaman said 871 new courts and 232 judicial posts have been created, with another 304 positions currently in process. Recruitment of 150 new civil judges is underway.

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PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 17

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:30	4:45	6:24	7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	5:00	6:28	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Two students share an umbrella while returning home during heavy rain amid dark clouds, gusty winds and thunder in Khulna yesterday afternoon. The sudden downpour briefly cast the city into near-evening gloom typical of Baishakh storms. The photo was taken at the Navy Colony School intersection in Khalishpur.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

‘Hospital itself is like a patient’

MPs sound alarm over failing health facilities, cite poor infrastructure and staff shortage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several members of the parliament yesterday voiced concern over the deteriorating state of hospitals across the country, pointing to crumbling infrastructure, severe manpower shortages, and stalled development projects.

They urged the government to take urgent steps to strengthen healthcare delivery and ensure adequate staffing.

Speaking during discussions under Section 71 of the Rules of Procedure, which empowers MPs to draw a minister's attention to matters of urgent public

importance and to move Private Members' Resolution Proposals, lawmakers highlighted examples from their constituencies where hospitals remain in poor condition and patients are left without essential services.

Brahmanbaria-2 independent MP Rumeen Farhana termed the 50-bed hospital in Brahmanbaria's Sarail upazila as being "like a patient" itself.

She noted that 64 posts remain vacant, including nine for physicians and consultants, six for nurses, two for medical technologists, 15 for field staff, eight for health assistants, and 19

for other staff.

She added that while a Tk 10 crore project was undertaken to construct a six-storey building, the contractor abandoned the work after August 5, 2024, leaving medical services confined to the old, dilapidated two-storey building.

The discussion arose from a proposal by Azharul Islam Mannan (Narayanganj-3) to establish a new 200-bed hospital in Siddhirganj.

Rumeen spoke while debating an amendment to that proposal. Several other MPs echoed similar concerns, demanding

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JS RESERVED SEATS BNP to begin interviewing aspirants today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will be interviewing candidates who submitted nomination papers for the reserved women's seats in the parliament from today till tomorrow.

The interviews will be held at the BNP chairman's office in Gulshan from 3:00pm on both days.

Candidates from Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barishal and Faridpur divisions will be interviewed today, while those from Chattogram, Sylhet, Cumilla, Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions will face interviews tomorrow.

Members of the party's standing committee, who also serve on the BNP parliamentary board, will conduct the interviews. BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will preside over the process.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced the schedule yesterday at the party's Nayapaltan central office.

"The party's parliamentary board will take the decision. I think past roles in the movement, educational qualifications, and the ability to carry out parliamentary activities properly will all be considered," he said.

Party sources said nearly 1,300 aspirants bought nomination forms from BNP over three days.

According to the Election Commission, there are 50 reserved women's seats in parliament. BNP alliance will get 36 reserved seats.

Under the EC schedule, the deadline for submission

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NCP looks to expand footprint in city polls

Party closing in on candidates for 7 cities

SHAMIMA RITA

After announcing mayoral candidates for five city corporations, the National Citizen Party (NCP) is set to expand its plans for the upcoming local government polls by fielding candidates in seven more cities.

The new list is likely to include a mix of central leaders, regional organisers, grassroots figures, and well-known faces, as the party seeks to broaden its organisational base beyond parliamentary politics, party sources said.

Among those under consideration, NCP's chief organiser for the northern region, Sarjis Alam, is the frontrunner for Rangpur City Corporation.

He previously contested the 13th parliamentary election from Panchagarh-1 as part of a Jamaat-led alliance but lost to BNP candidate Barrister Mohammad Nawshad Zamir.

In Chattogram, former city mayor Mohammad Monjur Alam is the most likely candidate. NCP leaders are already in talks with him to join the party and contest under its banner.

Sources said Monjur was first elected a councillor with Awami League support. In 2010, he contested with BNP backing and defeated then-mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, winning by nearly one lakh votes to become mayor of Chattogram City Corporation. He later served as an adviser to the BNP chairperson.

After losing the 2015 city election, he announced his retirement from politics but was later seen in AL-aligned activities. He also

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INTERNATIONAL CRIMES TRIBUNAL

Former DGFI chief giving info on Ilias Ali disappearance

Says chief prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former DGFI chief Lt Gen (ret'd) Sheikh Mamun Khaled is providing information about his links to the 2012 enforced disappearance of BNP leader Ilias Ali, ICT Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam said yesterday.

"Mamun Khaled is giving information about both his own involvement and that of others in the enforced disappearance of Ilias Ali," Aminul told The Daily Star.

Earlier, speaking to journalists at his office, Aminul said Mamun revealed certain connections during interrogation by the International Crimes Tribunal's investigation agency and the

Detective Branch.

Replying to a query, he said further evidence has also emerged from witness testimonies in the ongoing case against Maj Gen (ret'd) Ziaul Ahsan.

"We believe future witnesses in that case may provide additional information related to Ilias Ali's disappearance," he said, expressing hope that the truth will be uncovered.

Ziaul stands accused of orchestrating the enforced disappearance and murder of 104 people between 2010 and 2013. He is currently on trial at ICT-1.

On April 13, ICT-2 showed Mamun Khaled arrested in

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‘Hands tied, abdomen slit’

Wife recounts BGB man's killing at ICT-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday heard testimony alleging that a Border Guard Bangladesh member was brutally murdered after being abducted in 2010, as proceedings continued in crimes against humanity cases involving multiple high-profile accused.

Munni Akhter, wife of the victim, Md Nazrul Islam, told the tribunal that her husband's body was recovered from the Baleswar river in Bagerhat's Sarankhola with his hands and legs tied, abdomen slit, and a cement bag placed inside.

She made the statement after the defence suggested Nazrul had died of suffocation, citing what they said was police information.

Ziaul Ahsan, a relieved major general, is on trial over allegations of orchestrating the enforced disappearance and murder of 104

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Illegally parked human hauliers (legunas) choke a busy road in front of Golap Shah Mazar in Dhaka's Gulistan area, worsening traffic congestion. This unauthorised practice occupies a large portion of the road and also hampers pedestrian movement due to poor management. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Change of Date

25th

The Daily Star Prime Bank

O&A LEVEL AWARDS

Saluting the Nation Builders of Tomorrow

New date: Saturday, 25 July 2026

~~Previous Date: 18 April 2026~~

Due to an unforeseen technical issue at the venue, the event has been rescheduled to 25 July 2026.

We regret any inconvenience caused.