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Trial of Taposh,
Nanak in July
uprising case
begins June 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial of former DSCC mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, former minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak, and 26 others is set to begin on June 8 in a crimes against humanity case over the killing of nine people in Mohammadpur during the July uprising.

A tribunal yesterday fixed the date for opening statements and recording testimony of the first prosecution witness.

The tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, fixed the date after framing charges against the accused and rejecting defence petitions seeking their discharge from the case.

While framing the charges, the tribunal said the materials on record were sufficient to proceed with the trial. It then asked the four accused present in the dock whether they pleaded guilty. They denied the charges and sought justice.

The prosecution brought three charges against the 28 accused.

According to the first charge, Farhanul Islam Bhuiyan alias Faiyaz was shot in Dhanmondi and two other protesters

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A vendor displays freshly harvested litchis from Rajshahi, as the arrival of the sweet summer fruit adds a splash of colour and bustle to the market. The seasonal fruit is currently selling at around Tk 600 per 100 pieces. The photo was taken in the capital's Karwan Bazar area recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

MEASLES DEATHS
Petition seeks
Tk 2cr for each
victim's family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday seeking Tk 2 crore in compensation for each family of the 352 children who died from measles and measles-like symptoms across the country.

The petition also sought court directives to establish specialised measles treatment units with ICU, PICU, and diagnostic facilities at all district hospitals and upazila health complexes, and to form an investigation committee to examine the deaths and the public health response.

The writ was filed as a public interest litigation by Supreme Court lawyers Barrister Mohammad Humayun Kabir Pallob, Barrister Mohammad Kawsar and Advocate Md Maksudur Rahman on behalf of the human rights organisation Law and Life Foundation Trust.

Extortion and grabbing
plague Kalyanpur slumPorabosti residents say ruling party-linked groups
allegedly involved as police turn a blind eyeSHAHEEN MOLLAH and
MUNTAKIM SAAD

Several groups, some claiming links to the ruling party, have allegedly been involved in grabbing shops and slum houses, as well as extortion and intimidation, in the Kalyanpur Porabosti slum area of Dhaka.

Many victims said they sought law enforcers' intervention, to no avail. Some have left the area out of fear, while others said they were forced to comply with the alleged perpetrators' demands.

The Daily Star learned of around 15 such incidents. In some cases, victims filed complaints with police, while others remained silent fearing reprisals.

Many also alleged that police tried to settle the issues between victims and criminals.

Md Russel, 40, a contractor who secured a waste management contract at Ibn Sina Hospital's Kalyanpur branch on April 1 this

year, alleged that one Sohag tried to take over the work and later demanded Tk 15,000 in monthly extortion from him.

Sohag, who claims to be a Jubo Dal activist, has allegedly

Sohag, who claims to be a Jubo Dal activist, has allegedly established control over parts of the slum and nearby areas with the help of his relatives and some teen gang members. He buys scrap goods and stolen materials at low prices by intimidating shop owners and uses his group to control local contracting work.

VICTIMS

established control over parts of the slum and nearby areas with the help of his relatives and some teen gang members.

When Russel refused, Sohag allegedly led a group of 20-25

people who abducted him from in front of Mizan Tower on April 10, took him inside the slum, and beat him. Locals later rescued him after hearing his screams and took him to a hospital.

The accused individuals claim affiliation with BNP, Jubo Dal, or Swechchhasebak Dal, but no committees of those organisations currently exist in the area. They attended Awami League programmes in the past and now join BNP rallies to use this political identity while engaging in criminal activities.

SHAKIL AHMED SWAPAN
General secretary, ward-11 unit of BNP

Russel also said he filed a complaint with Mirpur Police Station two days later, but police subsequently compelled him to settle the matter with the accused.

Victims said Sohag buys scrap

goods and stolen materials at low prices by intimidating shop owners and uses his group to control local contracting work. Allegations of mugging, assault, abduction, and grabbing houses have also been raised against him.

Nasima Azad, another victim, said Comfort Kamal — who claims to be convener of the Ward II Swechchhasebak Dal unit — has been forcibly collecting Tk 5,000 monthly from her shop in Deshmoy Super Market adjacent to the slum for the past 20 months.

After lodging complaints with the market authorities, she was advised to approach law enforcers. She filed a general diary with Mirpur Police Station on October 20, 2025, and later a case on February 2, 2026, but has yet to receive any remedy.

Nasima said she has been struggling financially since her husband died in 2021. She currently lives in Singair of

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'Planned cities
key to better
public health'Dr Javad Koohsari stresses
parks, sidewalks, open
spaces at UPL podcast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite major advances in medical science, non-communicable diseases, like diabetes and cardiovascular disease, continue to rise globally, causing nearly 70 percent of deaths worldwide.

This has made policymakers realise that treatment alone is not enough, and governments cannot continue building hospitals endlessly without focusing on prevention.

Urban planners and designers, therefore, have an important role in creating healthier cities that can reduce disease and ease pressure on healthcare systems.



A city does not become better by chance. It must be carefully designed, planned, and continuously improved.

Internationally renowned researcher Dr Javad Koohsari shared these observations during a UPL Podcast titled "(Re)Designing Urban Public Open Spaces for Health", held at the University Press Limited (UPL) head office yesterday.

The session was moderated by Dr Akter Mahmud, professor of Urban and Regional Planning at Jahangirnagar University.

Dr Koohsari, founder and director of Urban Design Science for Health Lab and a faculty member at Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, said his interest in the connection

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DSCC launches
pre-monsoon
Aedes larvae survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday launched its first pre-monsoon Aedes mosquito larvae survey under its own management to prevent mosquito-borne diseases, including dengue and chikungunya, in the capital.

DSCC Administrator Abdus Salam formally inaugurated the survey at Buriganga Hall of Nagar Bhaban in the morning.

Under the 12-day survey, a total of 2,250 houses, 30 from each of DSCC's 75 wards, have been selected through a randomised scientific sampling process.

A total of 36 field workers from DSCC and the

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NCP demands
roadmap for
local govt pollsAnnounces names of
100 candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party (NCP) spokesperson Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain yesterday demanded that the government immediately publish a clear roadmap for the upcoming local government elections.

He made the demand at a press conference at NCP's central office in Dhaka's Banglamotor after the party announced the names of 100 candidates for the polls.

"The government is saying the elections will be held very soon. But how long is this 'very soon'? It could be five months, or it could be five years," Asif said, demanding a specific timeline for city corporation, upazila and municipality elections.

Asif also said NCP's local government election steering committee had announced the first list of 100 candidates from different backgrounds, including former BNP and Jamaat activists, independents, and former Awami League activists who supported the July movement.

Citing deterioration in law and order situation and recent border killings, Asif said the elected government had failed to ensure public security.

He urged the government to take a strong diplomatic position on border killings and summon the Indian envoy for an explanation.

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Hawkers occupy the footpath in front of Dhaka Shishu Hospital in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, forcing pedestrians to walk through a narrow, crowded passage. The illegal occupation continues to cause suffering for hospital-goers, many of whom visit the facility with children. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

LAWYER MURDER
HC rejects
Chinmoy's
bail pleaVerdicts on 4 more
petitions today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a bail petition filed by former ISKCON leader Chandan Kumar Dhar, also known as Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, in a murder case.

The case was filed with Chattogram Kotwali Police Station after Advocate Saiful Islam Alif was beaten and hacked to death on November 26, 2024, during violent clashes near the Chattogram Court Building.

The HC bench of Justice KM Zahid Sarwar and Justice Sheikh Abu Taher rejected the petition as the trial court has started recording statements of witnesses in the case, said Chinmoy's lawyer Apurba Kumar Bhattacharya.