



HC summons judge over delay in rape, murder trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned a Habiganj court judge to appear on June 23 over her failure to complete the trial of a rape and murder case in the past five years.

Judge Syeda Minhaj Um Munira of Habiganj's Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal has been directed to appear before a High Court bench of Justice KM Emrul Kayesh and Justice Md Sagir Hossain to explain the delay in completing the trial of the case.

The bench, in a suo motu move, issued the order while hearing a bail petition filed by Golam Hossain, a jailed accused in the rape and murder case, Deputy Attorney General Md Mohsin Kabir Rocky told The Daily Star.

He said the HC bench, while examining the case documents, noted that the trial of the case, filed in December 2021, remains unconcluded despite five years having passed.

"The case was filed with Nabiganj Police Station on December 28, 2021,

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A football fan sets off a flare and holds it aloft, releasing red smoke in the air, to show support for his favourite national team competing in the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026. The photo was taken yesterday in the capital's Gulistan area.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

AL leaders can contest local govt polls if eligible

Says PM's adviser Zahed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anyone, including members of the Awami League, political activities of which are now banned, can contest the upcoming local government elections if they meet the required criteria, PM's Information Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman said yesterday.

"If the leaders and activists of Awami League can meet the election-related criteria, there is no problem for them to participate in the local government elections, as the polls are non-partisan."

He made the comment in response to questions from journalists at a weekly press conference at the Secretariat to highlight the government activities.

Zahed said, "If the leaders and activists of Awami League can meet the election-related criteria, there is no problem for them to participate in the local government elections, as the polls are non-partisan. There is no reason for the government to create any obstacles in this regard."

Responding to a question, the adviser said, "If an

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Shishu Hospital to get 106 more beds, 5 new OTs

Ecnecc okays Tk 344cr project



Once completed, the hospital's bed capacity will rise from 681 to 787, including six cabins. The number of ICU beds will increase from 68 to 75, while OTs will go up from six to 11.

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government has taken up a Tk 344 crore project to expand the Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, as the country's largest children's hospital struggles to meet rising demand for treatment, particularly during measles and dengue outbreaks.

The specialised hospital will get 106 new beds, five more operating theatres, additional intensive care services, and three new specialised surgical departments for children under the project.

The project, titled "Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute Expansion Project-2", was among eight projects approved yesterday at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council, with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in the chair.

Under the project, the hospital in Dhaka's Agargaon

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Russia may recruit 1 lakh workers from Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Russia are in talks to increase labour recruitment from Bangladesh to up to 100,000 workers within the next year.

Russian authorities have agreed to work expeditiously on the proposal made by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman, who is now visiting Moscow.

"The two sides are expected to complete necessary formalities in this regard soon," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement yesterday.

At present, nearly 10,000 Bangladeshis are working in Russia.

Khalilur and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held a bilateral meeting in Moscow on Monday.

The two sides also agreed that bilateral trade remained well below its potential. Trade between Bangladesh and Russia has stood at over \$2 billion annually over the last few years.

Khalilur emphasised the scope for a rapid increase in Bangladeshi exports, particularly

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Jamaat proposes Tk 8.4 lakh crore shadow budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday presented a Tk 8,39,505 crore shadow budget ahead of the national budget for fiscal year 2026-27, which is scheduled to be placed in parliament tomorrow.

The shadow budget prioritises education and health and includes measures such as raising the tax-free income threshold to Tk 500,000, using National Identity (NID) card numbers as Tax Identification Numbers (TIN), increasing social safety net allowances, and introducing a new government pay scale.

Jamaat leader and Dhaka-12 MP Saiful Alam Khan Milon presented the proposal at an event titled "People-Oriented Budget Proposal 2026-2027" at Al-Falah Auditorium in Moghbazar.

The shadow budget sets a revenue target of Tk 6,65,926 crore and projects an overall deficit of Tk 1,68,329 crore, equivalent to 2.43 percent of GDP.

Saiful said the proposals were based on the principles of equality, justice, and human

dignity with the goal of building a welfare state.

He alleged that years of political patronage, corruption, and money laundering had weakened the country's economic foundations. Recovering laundered money could help reduce the budget deficit, he said.

As part of tax reforms, the Jamaat proposed replacing the separate TIN system with NID numbers and introducing a "Smart Social Security Number" to widen the tax base.

Besides raising the tax-free income threshold for individual taxpayers from Tk 4,50,000 to Tk 500,000, the party proposed introducing tax rebates on educational expenses incurred by taxpayers, their family members, or dependents.

Under the social safety net programme, the Jamaat proposed increasing old-age, widow, and disability allowances, as well as benefits under the mother and child assistance programme, from the current Tk 650-900 per month to Tk 1,000 initially and gradually to Tk 3,000.

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Proposed budget prioritises education, health

Seeks to raise tax-free income threshold to Tk 5 lakh

Sets revenue target of Tk 6,65,926cr

Projected deficit stands at Tk 1,68,329cr

Women MPs to step in where BNP lost

Move aims to keep grassroots active in opposition-held seats

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP has assigned its reserved-seat women MPs to constituencies won by opposition parties as part of a strategy to keep the ruling party active in areas where it has no elected lawmaker.

The move is intended to ensure BNP leaders and activists in those constituencies do not feel politically isolated because the party lacks directly elected MPs there.

According to party sources, the reserved-seat MPs will serve as a bridge between the central leadership and local leaders, maintain regular contact with voters, follow up on development work, and help ensure the government's promises remain visible at the grassroots.

To avoid internal conflict, overlapping authority, or competition over local influence, the central leadership has not assigned them to constituencies where the BNP already has elected MPs, the sources said.

For example, BNP leader Fahima Nasrin Munni, whose political base is Munshiganj-3, has been assigned responsibility for Jhenaidah-3 and Jhenaidah-4, where Jamaat candidates won.

"The responsibility given to us is mainly for coordination. In the seats where candidates from other parties have

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World conflicts hit peak in 2025

Report warns of surge in attacks on civilians



AFP, Oslo

The world saw the highest number of state conflicts since the Second World War in 2025, a Norwegian study said yesterday, warning of a surge in attacks targeting civilians.

The annual "Conflict Trends" report from the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) said 65 conflicts involving at least one state were recorded worldwide last year, a new high since 1946.

Conflicts between states also hit a new 80-year peak, doubling from the year before to eight – including border clashes between India and Pakistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Cambodia and Thailand, as well as Russia's

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Dumped in huge piles, leather scraps and waste from tanneries and leather-processing factories in Hazaribagh, Dhaka, spill onto walkways, spreading foul odours and hampering pedestrian movement. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

PAK CHECKPOINT Militants kill 6, abduct 8 paramilitary troops

AFP, Peshawar

Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants killed six paramilitary personnel and abducted eight others during an attack on a checkpoint in northwestern Pakistan, security officials said yesterday.

Dozens of members of the militant group, which claimed responsibility for the attack, stormed a checkpoint in the city of Peshawar with firearms, hand grenades and mortar shells on Monday, a security official told AFP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to media.

"Six personnel of the Federal Constabulary (FC) were martyred and four others wounded in an attack carried out by

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