



Instead of staying inside Samsabad field in Nayabazar, leased out by Dhaka South City Corporation for a makeshift market for sacrificial animals, traders are showcasing cattle for sale on adjoining roads, violating a government ban. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Mayors misappropriated Tk 50 crore allocated for mosquito control: Ranga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Secretary General Moshir Rahman Ranga yesterday demanded that the mayors of Dhaka city corporations step down from their posts, as they failed to eliminate Aedes mosquitoes.

He also alleged that the two mayors misappropriated Tk 50 crore, allocated for mosquito control.

Ranga was speaking at a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club to generate awareness among people.

"The dengue situation in the country has turned alarming. The two Dhaka mayors have misappropriated Tk 50 crore allocated for mosquito control. Such mayors, who utterly failed to control the mosquito menace in the city, have to step down," Ranga said.

He said JP was forced to take to the streets to draw the government's attention as the parliament is not in session at present.

Pointing to relief activities during the recent flood, Ranga said, "Relief materials provided by the government were insufficient and there were irregularities in distribution."

"Irregularities and disorder [in different sectors] have increased as the prime minister is not in the country at the moment," he said.

Speaking at the programme, JP Chairman GM Quader called upon the authorities concerned to take effective measures throughout the year to prevent dengue outbreak.

"The two city corporations in Dhaka have failed to take necessary steps for eliminating Aedes mosquitoes and generating awareness among people -- to prevent dengue. The upward trend in the number of people being infected with and dying from the disease are vivid proof of the authorities' failure," GM Quader said.

"All the hospitals in remote areas across all the districts must be equipped with facilities for diagnosis of dengue fever and for platelet transfusion," he said.

Claiming Jatiya Party to be the voice of the countrymen, GM Quader said, "People are panicked over the dengue situation in the country, and we cannot sit idle at a time like this."

He also demanded that the private hospitals in the country provide treatment to dengue patients free of cost -- the same way state-run hospitals are doing.

The situation may go beyond control if effective measures in this regard are not taken immediately, he added.

JP presidium members and senior leaders were also present at the programme.

## Clean up animal waste in 24 hours

Green activists urge Dhaka mayors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental activists at a human chain yesterday urged the two Dhaka city corporation mayors to clean up waste within 24 hours of slaughtering sacrificial animals during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.

The city is already suffering from a dengue outbreak. If waste is not cleaned properly and timely, it may create a risk of spreading various communicable diseases, they added.

Eleven environmental organisations, including Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), organised the event in front of Nagar Bhaban in Gulistan.

Activists also demanded that the city corporations stop people from setting up cattle markets at undesignated places, clean up waste from the markets daily and increase the number of designated slaughtering spots.

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## Adivasi women worst sufferers of a biased state machinery

Speakers say at event marking int'l day for indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many languages spoken by indigenous people do not have any word for rape. Women of these communities who grow up in a gender-equal environment, fall victim to rape and other sexual and physical torture against the backdrop of the state's apathy to ensure the rights of disadvantaged groups, speakers said yesterday.

They demanded that those involved in the crimes be given exemplary punishment and the victims be provided with treatment, compensation and legal aid. The demands were placed at a programme at Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in the capital, organised by Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha and Adivasi Women's Network.

The event was held on the occasion of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (on August 9).

Adivasi women are one of the worst sufferers of a biased state machinery while their contribution to sustainable resource management, food production, food security and tackling climate change -- done with the traditional knowledge passed down from generation to generation

-- remain unacknowledged, according to a press statement.

The state consciously decides how it would treat a group of people, said Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

Like the divisions in society based on religion and class, indigenous people are divided to continue repression, she added.

During the third-time review of human rights situation in the country, in the May 2018 Universal Periodic Review, the government received 251 recommendations but rejected four of them tied to minorities and adivasis.

The press statement claims that had the recommendations been accepted, adivasi women and girl children would have seen themselves included.

The committee that oversees the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women expressed concern over the discrimination against women of adivasi and other disadvantaged communities at the 65th session in 2016.

Last year, 54 adivasi women and girl children were victims of physical and sexual harassment. Twenty-three

of them were raped and gang-raped. Twelve were killed after rape.

An analysis showed that 85 per cent of the incidents were committed by non-adivasis and 13 per cent by adivasis, as per the press release.

Rape is an instrument used to control the weak, said Robayet Ferdous, a teacher of journalism at Dhaka University.

This tool is used to force adivasis out of their homes and villages with the intention of grabbing their land, which is what has been happening with plainland adivasis for decades, he said.

CHT Accord has not been implemented even 22 years after the government signed the agreement with Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity. According to data of Kapaeng Foundation and Adivasi Women's Network, violence against adivasi women and children has doubled since 2013.

Adivasi' lives revolve around nature and they have been protecting hills, rivers, streams while others are destroying those, said Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladeshi Adivasi Forum.

The environment will not be protected if they disappear, he added.

## ILLEGAL WEALTH ACC files case against ex-AL MP Mizanur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against former ruling party lawmaker (from Khulna-2) Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, over amassing wealth worth about Tk 1.5 crore beyond known sources of income.

ACC Director Monjur Morshed filed the case.

Last year, ACC received allegations that Mizanur -- also general secretary of Khulna city AL -- embezzled huge amount of money by misusing power at Khulna City Corporation and other public offices to secure work orders under name of his family members, and ran a drug ring.

ACC quizzed Mizanur on April 16 last year over the alleged illegal accumulation of wealth.

Mizanur submitted his wealth statement to the Commission on November 19 last year.

## A curious decision

DNCRP drive against charging extra for dengue test put on hold

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

After successive drives in different hospitals, diagnostics and dispensaries by the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP), during which they had fined some top hospitals for charging higher than the government declared rate for dengue tests, the officials were not seen in the field in last three days.

During the drive, dispensaries selling medicines for mosquito control at much higher price were also fined.

Sources at the DNCRP and commerce ministry said after being guided by the top authorities, they have suspended their raid for an indefinite period.

Over last two weeks, the consumer rights protection directorate inspected over three dozen hospitals and diagnostic centres in Dhaka. Most top hospitals also

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### DHAKA TODAY

#### DISCUSSION

Eid Journey amid Dengue: Steps to be Taken  
Organiser: Poba  
Venue: Poba Office, Kalabagan  
Time: 11am

#### SEMINAR

On Global Entrepreneurship  
Venue: China Bangla Business Club,  
Time: 11am

#### ENGLISH PRACTICE SESSION

Venue: American Center, Baridhara  
Time: 2pm

#### DISCUSSION

Bangamata, Bangabandhu 0 Bangladesh  
Organiser: Bangabandhu Gobeshana Parishad  
Venue: Jatiya Press Club  
Time: 10:30am



Discussants at the roundtable yesterday at The Daily Star Centre.

PHOTO: STAR

## Skills training essential for youth development: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said the country's youths should be given skills training, which is required to develop their career amid future challenges.

They said the country's existing formal education system lacks many aspects of skill development needed for the present day job scenario.

IPDC Finance and The Daily Star jointly organised the discussion on "Life Skills for Progress and Prosperity: The Youth's Narrative" at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Tasmiah T Rahman, head of programme of skills development

at Brac, said that in Bangladesh, parents' financial situation determine which school a child will go to, which is unfortunate.

Sourav Saha of Jaago Foundation's Youth Development Programme said in their training programme they had found that youths lacked vision due to financial limitation. However, they could overcome such shortcomings through consultation, he added.

The government should look into this growing frustration among youths who have limited opportunities, he added.

Sakib bin Rashid, chief

instructor of 10 Minute School, said learning process should be fun because students often show lack of concentration in apparently uninteresting subjects.

G Sumdany Don, chief inspirational officer of Don Sumdany Facilitation and Consultancy, said besides students, teachers should be provided with training as well to ensure quality learning process.

Mominul Islam, managing director and chief executive officer of IPDC Finance, said what students in Bangladesh miss is the "ability to learn."

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