



The Daily Star



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"But to our utter dismay, we found that we don't have either India or China or even Russia, on our side."
EX-NHRC CHIEF MIZANUR RAHMAN ON ROHINGYA REPATRIATION



"We see ministers, the Rab DG, the IGP visit road before Eid. But we see an opposite picture after Eid ... so accidents occur."
MOZAMMEL HOQUE CHOWDHURY OF JATRI KALYAN SAMITY



"There's no clash whatsoever between me and Shahib. We've been very good teammates as long as we've been playing together."
BANGLADESH BATSMAN MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD



REAFFILIATION OF 7 COLLEGES

Hasty move helped none

Students suffer as DU not equipped while taking back charge of the institutions

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and AASHIQ ABDULLAH APU

In February 2017, when Dhaka University took back the responsibility of seven government colleges after more than two decades, the university was neither prepared nor adequately staffed to handle the added burden.

As a result, the DU administration is failing to conduct exams and publish results on time, causing sufferings to students of both the university and the colleges.

DU Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury and Supernumerary Professor Syed Anwar Husain said it was the university's responsibility to have necessary preparations before the decision was made.

"We don't understand the reason behind the hasty decision. There was no discussion on whether the university has the capacity or not," said Prof Serajul.

Prof Anwar said, "The situation is much more complicated now. It cannot continue for a long time. Students of both the colleges and the university are suffering. Their academic life has to be saved."

Both of them said the university did not have the capacity to cope with the burden of 2.5 lakh students because of its administrative weakness.

"This is a heavy burden on Dhaka University," said Prof Anwar.

The seven institutions that got reaffiliated with the DU are Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Government Titumir College, Government Bangla College, Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College, Kabi Nazrul Government College, and Begum Badrunnessa Government Women College.

It has now become the university's responsibility to conduct admission tests, hold their written and oral exams, prepare question papers, evaluate answer scripts (partially), and publish the results.

But, students of the colleges say, they are still facing session jams because their exams are not being timely held and results are getting delayed.

On the other hand, DU students say the reaffiliation put an extra burden on the

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A mother tends to her dengue-infected two-year-old at Mugda Medical College and Hospital in the capital yesterday. The hospital has 87 child dengue patients. Inset, four-year-old Mahmudul Hasan, who has dengue, cries while being given saline.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Stay alert, keep homes, surroundings clean

Says Hasina terming dengue a big problem

UNB, Dhaka

Terming the dengue outbreak a big problem, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged people to be aware of the mosquito-borne disease and keep their houses and surroundings clean to prevent the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes.

"The dengue prevalence is still there ... it used to be believed that these elite Aedes mosquitoes are seen in posh areas ... now they've spread elsewhere ... to many districts. So, we'll have to remain more alert about it," she said this while

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Indian FM arrives today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar will be arriving in Dhaka today on a three-day visit to further improve the bilateral relations of the two neighbours.

This is his maiden visit to Bangladesh after his appointment as minister of the BJP-led government in May this year.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen will receive his Indian counterpart at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 9:20pm.

Jaishankar is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Momen on Tuesday and leave Dhaka the next day.

The visit comes ahead of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's planned state visit

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FBCCI to mediate rawhide talks

Tanners, merchants to accept FBCCI decision over dues, says industries minister; sale begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday tasked the FBCCI with mediating between tanners and rawhide merchants to resolve the issue of the tanners' non-payment of Tk 400 crore to the merchants.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun announced this at a press conference after an emergency meeting with tanners, merchants, small traders, exporters of leather and leather goods at the commerce ministry in the capital.

The minister said the leaders of the associations of both tanners and merchants agreed to accept the decision to be taken by the FBCCI. The merchants will start rawhide sale today.

The commerce ministry called the meeting with the stakeholders to discuss the ongoing crisis in the rawhide trade, as the merchants refused to sell salt-applied rawhide to tanners until they get a substantial amount of the dues.

The merchants were supposed to start selling rawhide to tanners on Saturday, but they didn't do so, demanding payment of the dues.

Emerging from the meeting, Delwar Hossain, president of Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants' Association, said

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DENGUE OUTBREAK

Now equally alarming outside Dhaka

Poor health care facilities in rural areas a big worry; experts call for launching a social movement

HELEMUL ALAM

For the last one week, hospitals outside Dhaka are receiving more dengue patients than those in the capital.

Experts have termed this particularly alarming given the state of health care facilities in rural areas.

In the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, 972 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the country compared to Dhaka's 734.

Between August 12 and 18, at least 12,000 dengue patients were admitted in different hospitals across the country -- 6,866 of them outside Dhaka.

With them, the total dengue patients outside the capital now stand at 20,415, out of the total 53,182, data from the Directorate General of

Health Services (DGHS) show.

The current spell of dengue started from Dhaka and is now spreading fast to outlying districts as a huge number of people travelled from the capital to different districts during Eid vacation, health experts said.

Given the inadequate health facilities in rural and remote areas, experts suggested a set of preventive measures.

"As there is a huge number of Aedes mosquitos outside Dhaka, using mosquito nets is very important. Or else, it will spread further," said Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist of Jahangirnagar University.

If a dengue patient does not remain under mosquito nets, and if a non-infected Aedes mosquito bite him, that Aedes mosquito will also be infected and will spread the virus, he

warned.

During an epidemic-like situation, a disease can quickly spread outside the centre, he added.

A huge number of people travelled outside Dhaka during Eid vacation, which contributed to the spread in other parts of the country, he noted.

Mahmudur Rahman, former director of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), echoed his views and recommended taking preventive measures.

Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora of IEDCR said controlling Aedes mosquito at source is the key to reduce the number of dengue patients.

Testing kits are not a problem now, as the government has supplied those everywhere, she said.

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DENGUE OUTBREAK

NEW CASES IN LAST 24 HRS

1,706

TOTAL DENGUE CASES

53,182

OUTSIDE DHAKA

20,415

DEATH

96
(40 OFFICIAL)

UNDERGOING TREATMENT

7,168

SOURCE: DGHS

Suicide blast at Kabul wedding kills 63

182 hurt in IS-claimed attack in Shia neighbourhood

REUTERS, Kabul

The Islamic State militant group yesterday claimed responsibility for a suicide blast at a wedding reception in Afghanistan that killed 63 people, underlining the dangers the country faces even if the Taliban agree a pact with the United States.

The Saturday night attack came as the Taliban and the United States try to negotiate an agreement on the withdrawal of US forces in exchange for a Taliban commitment on security and peace talks with Afghanistan's US-backed government.

Islamic State (IS) fighters, who first appeared in Afghanistan in 2014 and have since made inroads in the east and north, are not involved in the talks. They are battling government and US-led international forces and the Taliban.

The group, in a statement on the messaging website Telegram, claimed responsibility for the attack at a west Kabul wedding hall, in a minority Shia neighbourhood, saying its bomber had been able to infiltrate the reception and detonate his explosives in the crowd of "infidels".

IS has claimed some of the most bloody attacks in Afghan cities over the past couple of years, with some aimed at the Shia minority.

The Taliban had earlier denied responsibility for the Kabul attack and condemned it.

182 people were wounded with many women and children among the casualties, interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said yesterday, as families thronged to Kabul's crowded cemeteries.

"We want peace, not such brutal suicide attacks," said Ahmad Khan, who was burying a relative.



Pictures on social media from the scene of the blast showed bodies strewn amid overturned table and chairs at the wedding hall, with dark blood stains on the carpet.

Both the bride and groom survived.

"I won't ever be able to forget this however much I try," the groom, identified as Mirwais, told the TOLOnews channel.

He said his cousin and some friends had been killed.

"I can't go to the funerals, I feel very weak ... I know that this won't be the last

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