

## No let-up in dengue deaths

5 more die in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five dengue patients died while 796 were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

The number of dengue deaths now stands at 187 while the total number of cases rose to 45,598.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), among the death cases, 115 are in Dhaka, 23 in Cox's Bazar, 20 in Chattogram, seven in Barishal, seven in Khulna, four in Mymensingh, two each in Rajshahi and Narail and one each in Narsingdi, Kustia, Pabna,

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With each passing day, the country is witnessing hundreds more dengue patients and multiple deaths. As the situation shows no sign of letting up, healthcare facilities, like the capital's Muga hospital, are filling up with sufferers of the mosquito-borne disease. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Disasters affect women, children more: speakers

UN Women Bangladesh launches 'From Where I Stand'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UN Women Bangladesh yesterday launched a storybook titled "From Where I Stand", paying tribute to the exemplary efforts and leadership of women in tackling climate change-induced disasters from the ground.

They also inaugurated a three-day photo exhibition at the Sculptor Novera Exhibition Room, following a ceremony held around noon at Bangla Academy in the capital. It will remain open from 11:00am to 8:00pm, till November 11.

Speakers at the programme said when a crisis strikes, individuals are more likely to be destitute and have fewer options for expressing their needs and goals. Disasters usually affect women and children more adversely than men due to pre-existing gender inequalities.

For the last five years, UN Women has been working with the government under the National Resilience Program, to sustain human and economic development from disaster-related shocks.

Remarkable and substantial changes have been brought in terms of the role of women in disasters -- from being victims to powerful agents of change in preparedness, response and building resilience, said speakers.

"From Where I Stand" was launched, to bring out the

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## Be ready for the election

IGP tells officers, as law and order situation may worsen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun yesterday instructed field-level officers to be prepared to face challenges centring the next general election, as law and order may deteriorate in the coming days.

The instruction came on the last day of the two-day quarterly crime conference, attended by superintendents of police (SP) of all districts, range deputy inspector generals, all metropolitan police commissioners, and top police officials.

The event was held at the capital's Rajarbagh Police Auditorium. Earlier on Tuesday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal exchanged views with the officials at the conference and warned that if programmes of political parties cause public sufferings, law enforcers will take necessary actions.

"We are not interfering in any political party's meetings. We will not obstruct their political programmes. But if anyone causes public suffering in the name of political programmes, action has to be taken," said an officer, quoting the minister.

At the conference, several SPs demanded a stop to central procurement of medicines and furniture for around 80 police units, including district police, meeting sources said.

Earlier, heads of units would get around Tk 80 crore annually for procuring medicine for force members and their family, but the immediate past IGP Benazir Ahmed centralised procurement to stop irregularities.



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## Collecting donation to fund militancy

Three held for link with militant outfit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) claimed to have arrested three persons who used to collect money by asking people to help mosques, madrasas and orphans, but would use the donations to fund activities of militant outfit "Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya".

Rab disclosed the information at a news briefing yesterday.

At the briefing, Rab also claimed to have rescued a woman from Narayanganj on November 5, after coming to know that an operative of the new outfit radicalised her.

The woman, Ambia Sultana alias Emili, sent her son Abu Bakar alias Riasad Rayan for "hijrat" in March to join Jama'atul Ansar, keeping her husband in the dark, said Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing, at Rab's media centre in the capital's Karwan Bazar.

In Islam, hijrat generally means "to give up one's own land" or "to migrate from one place to another place" mostly for the sake of faith.

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## Implement women, peace and security agenda

JS Speaker Shirin Sharmin tells discussion on national action plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday called for an integrated approach to implement and accelerate the localisation of the National Action Plan on women, peace and security.

She also said there must be a budget for the local ministries to promote the action plan as grassroots women are unaware of it.

This action plan can play a vital role in preventing violence against women, combating the adverse effects of climate change and disasters on women, addressing the post-Covid mental and financial challenges of women, and protecting women's peace and security as a whole, she said.

She made the comments at an event, titled, "Orientation on National Action Plan on Women, Peace, Security for members of parliament to accelerate localisation of WPS agendas", organised by Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS), and supported by UN Women.

It was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital.

In 2000, the government played a pioneering role in adopting the landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (WPS).

The action plan was launched by the government in November 2019, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with 11 other ministries and civil society organisations.

"These key issues need to be

addressed in the implementation process of the national action plan. The programmes included in the action plan need to be constituted to the annual plans of the ministries concerned, there must be a proper budget allocation for this," said BNPS Executive Director Rokeya Kabir.

Apart from this process, the parliamentarians must play an effective role as policymakers to implement the plan.

While presenting the national

"The women of Bangladesh have been playing their role efficiently in various national and international arenas. However, it is important to make women at all levels of society aware of their skills and abilities. I hope that the lawmakers will play a role in increasing awareness among women and empowering them in their respective work areas," he said.

Australian High Commissioner Jeremy Brewer said women and girls become the worst victims of violence during war or any crisis.

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SHIRIN SHARMIN CHAUDHURY

action plan, gender expert Sheepta Hafiza said, "Women, Peace and Security is not only a matter of women's peace or women's security. Rather, it will ensure peace and security for all people of society as a whole."

Toufiq Islam Shatil NDC, director-general (UN Wing), foreign ministry, said although the plan was adopted on November 24, 2019, unfortunately, due to the pandemic, it could not be implemented within the time frame. The duration has been extended for another 3 years till 2025.

Men and boys have an important role to play in preventing violence against women and ensuring women's participation in the decision-making process, he said, hoping that these issues will be given importance while implementing the national action plan.

UN Women's Country Representative Gitanjali Singh, lawmakers Aroma Dutta, Selima Ahmad, Syeda Rubina Akhter, Kazi Kaniz Sultana, and Monira Sultana, among others, spoke at the event, moderated by Shahnaz Shumi, deputy director of BNPS.

## 'Pakistan must offer formal apology'

Dipu Moni tells event on 1971 genocide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said Pakistan must offer a formal apology to the people of Bangladesh for the genocide committed by its military in 1971 and arrange compensation for the atrocities.

"It is our logical demand. Voices from inside Pakistan have also been raised in favour of our demand. In the past, many other countries sought apology for committing genocides elsewhere. Pakistan should do the same," she said.

The minister came up with the demand while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion, titled "We demand United Nation's recognition of the genocide in 1971", organised by Bangladesh Swadhinata Foundation at National Museum.

War crimes trials were held in Bangladesh around four decades after its independence. However, the anti-liberation forces are still active in the country's politics, even after five decades of the Liberation War, said Dipu Moni.

The minister also alleged that the anti-liberation forces are aligned with the opposition party.

Swadhinata Foundation's convener retired Justice Mohammad Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed presided over the discussion. "We will have to continue our battle against

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## Bangladesh a part of EU legal migration scheme

European commissioner to arrive today

PORIMOL PALMA

European Commissioner Ylva Johansson is coming to Bangladesh on a two-day visit today to advance legal migration from Bangladesh -- one of the four countries included in the European Union's Talent Partnership.

The visit will also be used to call for Bangladesh to prevent irregular migration and strengthen the repatriation of irregular Bangladeshi migrants in Europe, said diplomatic sources in Dhaka and Brussels.

During the visit, she will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Home Minister Asaduzzaman

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## 'AL mastermind of arson violence'

Alleges Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that Awami League, not BNP, is the mastermind of "arson violence".

The BNP leader made the remarks while speaking to reporters after talks with three political parties at the BNP Chairperson's Gulshan office. Fakhru sat with the delegations of the Minority Janata Party, Bangladesh NAP, and Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal.

Fakhru claimed people belonging to AL were involved in all the incidents of arson attacks that happened centring the 10th parliamentary polls.

"We're a liberal democratic party. We believe in (change in power) through elections. We have never come to power by resorting to arson attacks in the past, and we don't want to do it now as well."



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The recently constructed walkway and demarcation pillars on Kataru canal in the capital's Mohammadpur serve two purposes -- they protect the waterbody from encroachers and help commuters cross to the other side. The walkway has also become a place to pass quality time with friends and families. This photo was taken recently.