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## Homecoming day of Sheikh Hasina today



BSS, Dhaka

Today is the 43rd homecoming day of Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

On May 17 in 1981, she returned to the country after a long exile.

Boarding on an aircraft of the Indian Airlines, Hasina reached the then Kurmitola Airport here from the Indian capital of New Delhi via Kolkata at 4:30pm on the day.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was brutally killed along with

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With frequent load shedding in the capital in the last couple of days, the demand for diesel has increased. To make sure there's enough diesel for running generators in office and residential buildings, many were queuing at filling stations with containers. This photo was taken in Madhya Badda area recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## DSCC most corruption-free govt institution

### Claims Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday claimed that the Dhaka South City Corporation is the most corruption-free institution of all the government offices.

Taposh was speaking at a press conference at Nagar Bhaban, marking his third year as mayor.

"We have adopted a zero-tolerance policy against corruption. If we find any trace of corruption we strike there hard. For this, it (DSCC) has become corruption free, earning city dwellers' trust," he claimed.

"In the last three years, more than 100 officers and employees have been dismissed for various crimes including corruption and irregularities," he added.

The mayor claimed that no one is facing harassment now in the Nagar Bhaban and regional offices of the city corporation.

He also said he has taken several successful steps to ensure good governance in the DSCC.

Taposh said more than 500 officers and employees, including 109 drivers of heavy vehicles, have been appointed to reduce the severity of this shortage of necessary manpower. As a result, the rate of implementation of supervision and development activities as well as the delivery of civic services and the casual work of the corporation has increased.

TREE FELLING

Regarding the controversy surrounding tree felling on

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## 4 members of robber gang held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested four alleged members of a robbery gang which mugged at least four people including a police constable on Dhaka streets on May 12 and 13.

The arrestees are Soheli, 30; Akter alias Sohrab, 32; Abir Hossain alias Rasel, 25 and Roni, 28.


The gang of robbers used to roam the city streets on a pick-up van and rob people, Hayatul Islam Khan, deputy commissioner of Motijheel Division Police, told in a press briefing at DMP media centre yesterday.

Analysing footages of more than 100 CCTVs, a police team arrested the four from Mohakhali area on Monday as they gathered there for robbery.

They seized the pick-up van, two knives and four phones from them. The DC said they have stepped up vigilance after a constable of Special Branch was mugged near Rajarbagh Police Lines on May 12.

## Danger of dengue outbreak looms large

12 dead, 1,261 hospitalised this year so far; experts call for immediate measures

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|  | <b>Surveillance is an important aspect, in which we are lagging. It is also important to know the types of active viruses based on their locations to take proper control measures.</b> | <b>A higher density of Aedes mosquitoes have been noticed outside Dhaka, especially in Chattogram and Barishal, compared to the previous months.</b> |
| <b>GM SAIFUR RAHMAN</b><br>Entomologist   |   | <b>KABIRUL BASHAR</b><br>Entomologist  |

HELEMUL ALAM

The country has already seen the death of 12 dengue patients before the beginning of the monsoon, while 1,261 others were hospitalised till yesterday. The numbers indicate alarming signs of a massive dengue outbreak this year.

Experts urged the city corporations to take necessary steps to contain the mosquito-borne virus from spreading. They also urged the government to pay

more attention to areas outside of Dhaka, as the number of dengue patients is simultaneously increasing outside the capital.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 31 dengue patients -- of whom, five are from outside Dhaka -- were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning. The total number of dengue cases this year outside Dhaka was 525 till yesterday.

The total number of dengue-related deaths last year was 281,

while 62,382 cases in total were recorded. Of them, 23,162 were from outside Dhaka.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar said the situation is still under control but the number of patients is increasing every day.

"A higher density of Aedes mosquitoes have been noticed outside Dhaka, especially in Chattogram and Barishal, compared to the previous months," he said.

Bashar suggested conducting

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## Community inclusion vital to eliminate child labour

### Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poverty is not the only factor, rather failure to connect families and communities with social safety programmes is the challenge contributing to the rise in child labour in Bangladesh, stressed speakers at a workshop yesterday.

The national workshop, titled "The Review of National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Labour", was jointly organised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) and Unicef at a city hotel.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sultan attended the workshop as the chief guest.

"In order to end child labour in Bangladesh, we have financial support and training programmes. To prevent families from

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## No alternative to repeal DSA

### TIB expresses concern over cases against journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over the recent cases filed under the Digital Security Act against journalists, Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday said the DSA is a major obstacle to independent journalism and there is no alternative to repeal it.

"The DSA become a serious obstacle to fearless journalism. It is also increasing the trend of self-censorship in the media industry," said TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Reporters Against Corruption (RAC), an organisation of journalists, at the TIB office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Iftekharuzzaman said several new laws are being prepared, including the Data Protection Act, which may endanger journalism and freedom of expression.

Claiming that the government is using the DSA as a tool to implement its various objectives, he said its implementation could see an increase

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## Not foreigners, people will decide who'll come to power

### Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said not foreigners but people of the country will decide who will come to power.



He said this while paying tributes to freedom fighter, actor and Member of Parliament Akbar Hossain Pathan (Faroque) at Central Shaheed Minar.

Sheikh Hasina herself said that we want to come to the power in accordance with the mandate of the people, Quader said. "If the people want, then we will come to the power, otherwise not."

So, there is no reason that she [Sheikh Hasina] has any fear of the foreigners or local conspirators, he added.

Responding to a query on the claim made by Mirza Fakhrul that the government is agitated on the western countries, fearing to lose of power,

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## Withdrawal of envoys' police escort 'irresponsible'

### Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday termed "extremely irresponsible" the government's move to withdraw the additional police escorts for the envoys of different countries, including the US, the UK, and India, saying it may weaken the country's international relations.

"I think there're two things -- extreme irresponsibility and arrogance -- behind the decision," said party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Speaking at a press briefing at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office, he feared that the government's such decision can invite international problems and the people of Bangladesh will be the ultimate victims. "So, I consider this decision nothing but irresponsible."

"Secondly, the [PM's] arrogance has reached such a point that it may cause the greatest harm to the country...



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Amid sweltering heat, a mother-daughter duo finds respite by playfully dipping their heads beneath the cascading flow of a nearby pump. Laughter echoes in the air, capturing the essence of the simple pleasure of cool relief and togetherness. This photo was taken in Tangail's Nagarpur area recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN