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Vice Minister of the Foreign Ministry of China Sun Weidong calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

## JP's downward spiral continues

Party candidate became 6th in GCC polls, lost security deposit as he couldn't bag 8pc of total votes

RASHIDUL HASAN

Ahead of the Gazipur City Corporation polls, the main opposition in parliament Jatiya Party had said its mayoral candidate would secure good result in the election if it was held in free and fair manner.

Overcoming all confusions, the GCC polls was held in a peaceful atmosphere. But the JP mayoral candidate MM Niaz Uddin earned the sixth position out of total eight mayoral candidates and even lost security deposit as he couldn't bag eight percent of the total casting votes.

Political analyst said although, in papers, JP is the main opposition party in parliament, the party lacks credibility in people's mind due to its flip-flopping over the years.

In the May 25 GCC mayoral race, Islami Andolon Bangladesh, Gonofront and an independent candidate secured more votes than the JP.

JP Chairman GM Quader, while talking to The Daily Star, admitted that although they are called the main opposition party, it has been suffering from image crisis for various reasons for which their candidates couldn't do well in the competitive election.

“

**One of the reasons is that our senior leaders are making contradictory remarks in and outside the parliament on a similar issue, which is creating confusion among people's mind regarding our real political stance.**

GM QUADER

“One of the reasons is that our senior leaders are making contradictory remarks in and outside the parliament on a similar issue, which is creating confusion among people's mind regarding our real political stance,” said the JP leader.

Another reason is that their political stance is not getting clear before the people's mind, he also said.

GM Quader said, “The confidence we are creating among people simply washed away due to our leaders' paradoxical statements.”

The JP chairman also said, “Some of our leaders [MP] deliver speeches in parliament in support of the government

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**NARROWING JAMUNA**  
HC wants documents on proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted all the relevant documents regarding the proposal for narrowing the Jamuna river to see who are involved in it.

The Water Development Board has been ordered to submit the documents before the HC in 10 days.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Muhammad Mahbub Ul Islam passed the order while hearing a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

The organisation submitted the petition

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PRAYER TIMING		MAY 29	
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib Esha
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-47 8-35

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Cox's Bazar now a dengue hotspot

Cases surging ahead of seasonal outbreak, warns DGHS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health officials yesterday issued a warning that the number of dengue cases is increasing rapidly, well ahead of its typical outbreak season.

They also said the Cox's Bazar district has become a dengue hotspot.

The rainy months of June through September are typically considered the dengue season in Bangladesh.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), since January this year, a total of 1,771 dengue cases have been detected countrywide, of which, 426 were in Cox's Bazar.

In addition, a total of 1,066 cases were identified among Rohingya persons residing in various camps.

Health officials said contagion prevention and case management have become “difficult” in Rohingya camps.

“Members of the Rohingya community lack awareness of dengue disease. And working among them is difficult since they are from different cultural backgrounds,” said Prof Dr Nazmul Islam, director of the Disease Control Unit at DGHS, at a conference held at the DGHS headquarters yesterday.

In response to a query, he said since the Rohingyas reside in a small area and there is no water distribution system, they conserve water and the ideal breeding

ground for Aedes mosquitoes is clean water.

Stressing the need to destroy breeding sources immediately, Nazmul said failure to do so at this stage, which is prior to the monsoon season, could result in a more dire situation during the full monsoon season.

In the past 24 hours leading up to yesterday morning, 67 individuals suffering from dengue fever were admitted to hospitals. Of those, 9 were from areas outside Dhaka.

As per the DGHS report, there are currently 209 dengue patients receiving treatment at hospitals, out of which 29 are from outside of Dhaka.

Thirteen individuals have died so far due to dengue fever this year.

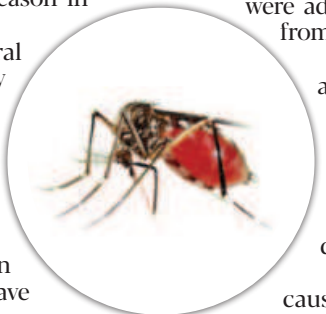
Meanwhile, 1,549 have been discharged from hospitals.

Last year, the number of deaths caused by dengue was 281, with a total of 62,382 cases reported. Out of these cases, 23,162 were reported outside of Dhaka.

During the press conference, Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general (planning and development) at DGHS, cautioned against the practise of overcharging patients for dengue testing.

In 2020, the government established a fixed fee for dengue tests; in public hospitals, Tk 100, and at private hospitals Tk 500.

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**SAVING SANDHYA**  
HC blasts Barishal district admin for failure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday blasted the Barishal district administration for not complying with its 2018 directives over removal of the obstacles from Sandhya River in the district, and its preservation and protection.

“...They have not implemented the directives of this court in last five years. They will not comply with the directives in even 100 years. They have established the reign [of powers].”

“You as well as we know the situation of the court and the country... They are selling the country. Will they take away the looted money to America?”

The HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Mohammad Showkat Ali Chowdhury said during hearing of a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

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**Be more people-friendly**  
President asks police

BSS, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin has asked members of Bangladesh Police to be more people-friendly.

He gave the directive when Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun paid a courtesy call on the president at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Shahabuddin also directed law enforcers to submit investigation reports as soon as possible to settle various cases.

President's press secretary Md Joynal Abedin informed the news agency about the meeting.

Cybercrimes are increasing due to the development of information technology. Police members should be trained in technology to deal with cybercrimes, he said.

Shahabuddin also praised police for curbing militancy and terrorism.



## 'MISSED MIDTERM' AT FINANCE DEPT

### 800 DU students face uncertainty

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

The finance department at Dhaka University did not grant any marks to approximately 800 students from four batches who skipped one of two midterm examinations.

Students reported on December 5 last year, they had asked the department chairman and course instructor to reschedule the exams scheduled on December 6.

“We requested due to safety concerns, as a large number of people were expected to attend the Chhatra League's central council meeting on campus,” said a student who requested anonymity.

They said only five second-year students attended the exams on December 6.

The authorities published the midterm results this month, where around 800 students from all four sessions were absent. This implies that the marks allocated to that exam will not be added to their Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) at the end of the semester.

The department prepares the final results based on two midterms exams of 15 marks each, a term paper and a presentation of 10 marks and a semester final exam of 60 marks.

Students said usually, the authorities of different departments retake mid-term exams if a large number of students are absent.

Even though almost all students requested the authorities to reschedule the exam date, the finance department refused. However, on May 8, the department rescheduled a midterm exam for final-year students because the course instructor forgot to prepare the question paper.

**“We requested [rescheduling of exam] due to safety concerns, as a large number of people were expected to attend the Chhatra League's central council meeting on campus.”**

A FINANCE DEPT STUDENT

According to another student who requested anonymity, the exam was rescheduled less than a half-hour prior to the scheduled start time.

“We approached our course instructors multiple times, who suggested that we

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The prize giving ceremony of “The Daily Star Bangladesh Olympiad powered by EducationHub” was held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. To instill patriotism among the younger generation, The Daily Star organised the olympiad. This year, it was held under three categories -- junior school, senior school, and college. In the initial phase, an online round was organised with more than 4,000 participants. After the preliminary stage, the quarter-finals were held with the best 50, the semi-finals with the best 30, and the final round with the best six students yesterday. Imran Kadir, head of sales and marketing, The Daily Star, and Rafiqul Islam Liton, director, EducationHub, along with Abdullah Arafat, director & head of operations, EducationHub, handed over the prizes to the winners.

PHOTO: STAR

**FAIR POLLS**  
Role of law enforcers crucial: CEC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Mentioning the role of law enforcement agencies in ensuring fair elections, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal yesterday said if any disruptions of law and order occur, the law enforcers have to take the responsibility.

“Our instructions to law enforcement agencies are clear -- the election must be conducted fairly, and law and order must be maintained,” he said.

Ahead of Barishal City Corporation election to be held on June 12, the CEC made these remarks after a views exchange meeting with election officials, executive magistrates, and law enforcement agencies at the Circuit House in Barishal.

Highlighting the EC's objective, he said their aim is to bring the voters to the polling centres so that they can exercise their franchise.