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## Barishal, Khulna polls to be even better than Gazipur

### Says EC Ahsan Habib Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Ahsan Habib Khan yesterday said the Barishal and Khulna city polls will be better than the recently held Gazipur city polls.

The Barishal and Khulna city polls are scheduled for tomorrow, while the Gazipur city polls were held on May 25 without any major irregularities.

Police sources said 106 out of the total 126 polling centres in the Barishal and 161 of 289 polling centres in Khulna have been identified as "important".

In the last few years, EC officials abstained from using the term "risky" for polling centres more prone to violence. They came up with the decision considering that such word creates a negative impression on the voters, which deters them from coming to the polling centres to cast their votes.

Officials said that is why they have been using the term "important" to identify these centres.

Asked about the overall election atmosphere, Ahsan Habib said they have taken all necessary steps to make the Khulna and Barishal city polls free, fair and neutral.

"The local administration, law enforcement agencies and polling officials have assured 100 percent compliance with our directives to ensure a peaceful environment at

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Commuters suffered delays as a group of jobseekers blocked the capital's busy Shahbagh intersection yesterday afternoon demanding extension of age limit to 35 from 30 for entering government jobs. The demonstration started around 1:30pm and ended after 9:00pm.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## DENGUE FEVER

### One dead, 156 hospitalised in 24 hours



UNB, Dhaka

One more dengue patient died and 156 were hospitalised across the country in the 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the new number, the official death toll from dengue rose to 22 this year, according to the DGHS.

Of the new patients, 148 were admitted to hospitals in Dhaka. At least 549 dengue patients are now receiving treatment at hospitals. So far, the DGHS has recorded 3,021 dengue cases and 2,450 recoveries this year.

The country logged 281 dengue deaths in 2022 – the highest on record after 179 deaths recorded in 2019. Also, it recorded 62,423 dengue cases and 61,971 recoveries last year.

## A technological evolution of crimes

### Law enforcers struggling to tackle tech-savvy criminals



#### CYBERCRIMES FILED UNDER 4 LAWS

Bangladesh Telecommunication Act 2001  
The Anti-Terrorism Act 2009  
Pornography Control Act 2012  
Digital security Act 2018

#### AGENCIES WITH CYBERCRIME UNITS

Dhaka Metropolitan Police  
Detective Branch  
Criminal Investigation Department  
Anti-Terrorism Unit  
Rapid Action Battalion

#### CHALLENGES

Victims reluctant to file cases  
Evidence gathering  
Effective policy measures  
Keeping up with technology  
Lack of awareness



MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Technology has advanced at a rapid pace, bringing many benefits to society, but it also has led to changes in crime patterns. Law enforcers' race against crimes has become even more challenging faced with these technology-facilitated crimes. On many occasions, these techno criminals catch the police off guard.

They also face trouble to find out the motive as well as the masterminds of new types of crimes, as criminals bring technology and devices from abroad, making the case more complex to solve, according to police sources.

Dhaka University Criminology Prof Zia Rahman said due to "structural" constraints, law enforcers have inadequate capacity to face traditional crime let alone tech-savvy crimes or cybercrimes.

"Measures to face cybercrime are meagre as there is no effective policy in place. There are cybercrime units but their activities are way more limited," he said.

According to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) data, tech-savvy crimes are on the rise, while the rate of traditional crimes is decreasing. The number of murder cases was 216 in 2018, reducing to 173 last year. The number of mugging cases was 216 in 2018, reducing to 165, while the number of kidnapping cases reduced to 49 in the last year from 75 in 2018.

DMP sources said cases related to violence against

women reduced to 1,094 in 2022 from 1,101 in 2018. Drug-related cases came down to 16,035 in 2022 from 16,215 in 2018. Meanwhile, 17 robbery cases were filed in 2018, while it stood at 27 in 2022.

But cybercrimes under four different laws – Bangladesh Telecommunication Act 2001, The Anti-Terrorism Act 2009, Pornography Control Act 2012 and Digital Security Act 2018 – across the country increased to 2,193 cases till November 2021 from 1,165 in 2018, shows data of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC).

According to the police headquarters, only 19 cybercrime cases were filed in 2012, 48 in 2013, 149 in 2014, 303 in 2015, 546 in 2016 and 568 in 2017.

Several police officers said in almost all drug-related cases, dealers contact each other and attract customers via encrypted messaging apps, while financial transactions are made using mobile financial services (MFS).

They put a SIM card in a keypad phone and later, open accounts on encrypted messaging apps with that number but on an android. This way, drug dealers can communicate with each other and their clients from anywhere.

Several DMP officials said financial frauds using state-of-the-art technologies, ATM machine and app-based fraud, credit and debit card fraud, illegal

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## People won't be deceived for the third time

### Says Fakhru on joining polls under AL govt

UNB, Dhaka



BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir on Saturday said the people of Bangladesh will not be deceived thrice by participating in the next polls under the Awami League regime.

Speaking at a discussion, he also said AL is against the election under a non-party impartial government as the party knows very well that it will not get more than 10 percent votes in credible polls because of its widespread plundering and misdeeds.

"Awami League leaders and ministers are saying the caretaker government is now a dead issue. Why is it a dead issue? This is the most alive issue now," the BNP leader said.

He said people of Bangladesh witnessed the parliamentary elections in 2014 and 2018. "They won't go back to face that situation again."

Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad arranged the programme at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU), marking the first death anniversary of the organisation's founding president, and former BNP MP and state

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## BNP brought Jamaat to the fore to carry out arson terrorism

### Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka



Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP has brought Jamaat to the fore to carry out arson terrorism.

He said this while speaking at a "peace rally" organised by Dhaka city north unit of AL at Nikunja playground in the capital.

Quader said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir has been making absurd comments.

If BNP wants peaceful atmosphere, it should forget the issues of caretaker government system, Sheikh Hasina's resignation and dissolution of parliament, he said.

Noting that AL doesn't fear the new visa policy of the US, the minister said they are taking preparation for a free and fair national election.

BNP will have to pay price if it makes any mistake, he said.

Mentioning that BNP holds "picnic party" in the name of rally, Quader said BNP will again hold

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## Rejoinder, our reply

The finance department at Dhaka University has sent a one-page rejoinder to our report headlined "800 DU students face uncertainty" published on May 29.

As we cannot accommodate the 600 words rejoinder, we are publishing a concise version of it, followed by our reply.

The department in its rejoinder claimed that the informational content of the report is "incomplete" and "partial".

"We strongly believe that the readers deserve to know the entire background to form an informed opinion," it said.

They gave an explanation as to why they held the examination despite students' requests of not doing so. The department also explained

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A guard of honour being given to Serajul Alam Khan at his ancestral village of Alipur in Begumganj upazila in Noakhali yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Serajul Alam Khan laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Serajul Alam Khan, one of the key organisers of the country's Liberation War, was laid to eternal rest with state honour in Noakhali yesterday.

After a namaz-e-janaza in the evening, he was buried beside the grave of his mother Syeda Zakiya Khatun at his ancestral village of Alipur in Begumganj upazila.

Earlier, his first namaz-e-janaza was held at the Baitul Mukarram national mosque in the capital.

Dubbed by many as the "mystery man" in the country's politics, Serajul breathed his last on Friday at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's intensive care

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