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## Work together to build 'Smart Bangladesh'

PM tells newly-elected  
mayors, councillors

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked public representatives to serve the people and meet their needs when working in their respective areas.

"You will have to fulfil the needs and wants of the people who elected you with their votes," she said, reports UNB.

The premier said this at the oath-taking ceremony for the newly-elected mayors and councillors of Barishal, Khulna and Gazipur city corporations at Shapla Hall of her office.

Addressing the newly elected public representatives, she said, "You, being elected with votes of the people, have the scope to serve them. I want you to work in your own areas as public servants."

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The five newly-elected mayors to the five city corporations were sworn in yesterday by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. From left, newly-elected mayors Jayeda Khatun of Gazipur, Talukder Abdul Khaleque of Khulna and Abul Khair Abdullah of Barishal at the ceremony. At a separate event, AHM Khairuzzaman Liton of Rajshahi and Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury of Sylhet also took the oath of office.

PHOTO: PID

## Newly elected 5 city mayors sworn in

UNB, Dhaka

Newly-elected mayors of five city corporations — Gazipur, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barishal and Sylhet — were sworn in yesterday by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The mayors are Jayeda Khatun of Gazipur, AHM Khairuzzaman Liton of Rajshahi, Talukder Abdul Khaleque of Khulna, Abul Khair Abdullah of Barishal and Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury of Sylhet.

The prime minister first administered the oath of office to the new mayors of Gazipur, Khulna and Barishal at a ceremony held at Shapla Hall of her office in the city.

Separately, the PM administered the oath of office to the new mayors of Rajshahi and Sylhet at the same venue.

Besides, some 230 newly-elected councillors of general wards and female councillors of the reserved seats of the five city corporations took oath at the events.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Md Tazul Islam administered the councillors' oaths.

The number of councillors is 76 in

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## 59 hajj pilgrims died in Saudi Arabia so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 59 Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims died in Saudi Arabia so far this year due to extreme heat.

Of the total deceased, 12 are female and 47 are male, according to the hajj portal of the religious affairs ministry of Bangladesh, which publishes daily updates on the holy religious congregation.

Seven Bangladeshi Hajj pilgrims died on Thursday due to heat stroke.

Most of the hajj pilgrims died in Makkah.

Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh President M Shahadat Hossain Taslim, who is now visiting Saudi Arabia to perform hajj, also confirmed this information.

Hajj pilgrims who die in Saudi Arabia are usually buried there.

According to the information of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, 1 lakh 22 thousand 884 Bangladeshis went to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj this year.

Of the total pilgrims, Biman carried 61,180 pilgrims in 159 flights, Saudia carried 41,468 in 113 flights and Flynas carried 20,236 in 53 flights.

## DMP SPECIAL DRIVE TO STOP MUGGING Cops a no-show at many check points after midnight

MUNTAKIM SAAD and DIPAN NANDY

On average, at least one mugging incident takes place every two days in the capital, according to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police. The data was compiled based on reported cases during the first three months of the year.

However, the actual number is believed to be higher than what is reported, as many victims choose not to report the crimes to the police due to concerns of harassment.

Besides, some officers at police stations encourage victims to file general diaries instead of formal cases, resulting in an underrepresentation of mugging incidents in official police data.

They do this to reduce pressure of investigation and paperwork, said officials seeking anonymity.

Officials said criminals are most active from midnight to dawn. To combat this, police have increased their patrols and established check-points during these hours.

However, these correspondents did not find police presence at many check points after midnight.

Over the past two days, the DMP arrested 145 suspected snatchers, muggers, and robbers from various locations in the capital.

Besides, 1,764 people were arrested before Eid, according to DMP Additional Commissioner (Crime and Operations) Khandaker Mahid Uddin.

Dhaka streets were relatively deserted during the four days of Eid vacation. Muggers, robbers and thieves utilised this opportunity to the fullest, said police sources.

**In 2022, at least 1,603 incidents of thefts, 145 muggings and 27 robberies took place in the capital. And till March of this year, 192 thefts, 34 mugging and two robberies took place in Dhaka.**

"We have to understand one thing — one should safeguard their own belongings. The state certainly has the responsibility of security. But if someone talks on the mobile phone while walking... or talk in the car while keeping the window open, a thief will take

advantage of the situation, steal the phone, and flee," Khandaker Mahid added.

Muggers attacked and stabbed police constable Moniruzzaman Talukder in the Farmgate area before early Saturday when he returned to the capital from his village in Sherpur after the Eid vacation.

Earlier on Thursday night, a journalist of a private television Rakibul Hasan Rana (30) was stabbed by muggers in front of BTV office in Rampura. He is now receiving treatment at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation.

Mahid said they conduct drives during occasions like the Eid. This time, it was no exception, but yet such incidents took place.

"There is no such thing as 'absolute' security," he added.

He said they arrested three muggers involved with the killing of the police constable while they have identified the criminals who stabbed and mugged the journalist.

The official said police are deeply concerned about these two incidents. The DMP commissioner has given necessary directions to the DC and OCs of all police stations to prevent recurrence of such incidents, he added.

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## Killing a constable for drug money

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

It was early Saturday. Traffic constable Moniruzzaman Talukder had just returned to Dhaka from Sunamganj after celebrating Eid at his village home.

Little did he know that it would be his last Eid with his loved ones.

At Farmgate intersection around 4:15am, a group of muggers intercepted him at knifepoint, and took away his wallet and mobile phone.

The situation took a dangerous turn when the muggers noticed a photocopy of his police ID, and decided to kill him in that very instance.

Moniruzzaman shouted for help when the muggers stabbed him, but it was in vain.

The muggers, who were apparently drug addicts, showed no fear or remorse during the incident. After the fatal attack, they added some extra bucks with the stolen Tk 550 and purchased six to seven yaba pills.

Sources within the law enforcement revealed this following the arrest of

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## President returns home after performing hajj

BSS, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin returned home yesterday morning from Saudi Arabia after performing the hajj.

A VVIP aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the president and his entourage members landed at Dhaka airport at 1:47am.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, dean of Diplomatic Corps, chiefs of the three services, inspector general of police and civil and military officials received the president at the VVIP lounge of the airport.

Shahabuddin was seen off at the Prince Muhammad Bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah by Deputy Governor of Madinah Ohaib Al Shehli, Head of Royal Protocol of Madinah Ibrahim Al Bari and Ambassador of Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia Md Javed Patwari.

The president left Dhaka for Saudi Arabia on June 23 to perform hajj as a royal guest of the Saudi King.



PHOTO: PID

## Budget session resumes today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The budget session of parliament resumes this afternoon after a week's recess. The day's proceedings will begin at 5:15pm.

According to the sources at the parliament secretariat, the budget session might continue for another two to three days.

The finance bill was passed on June 25 while the national budget for 2023-24 fiscal was passed in parliament on June 26.

Several laws including income tax bill have already been passed in the ongoing budget session.

A number of bills are likely to be passed in the the ongoing parliament session.

## LPG price reduced again 12kg cylinder now Tk 999

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission has slashed the price of liquefied petroleum gas again.

A retail consumer will now have to pay Tk 75.24 less to buy a 12kg LPG cylinder at Tk 999 instead of Tk 1,074 (including VAT).

Prices of other LPG cylinders — from 5.5kg to 45kg — will go down accordingly, Md Nurul Amin, newly appointed chairman of BEREC, said at a press briefing yesterday.

The new prices were effective from 6:00pm yesterday.

BEREC officials said the LPG price declined in the local market, thanks to the dip in prices in Saudi CP (contract price).

Bangladeshi LPG operators normally import their products from the Middle-East market on the basis of Saudi CP.

As per the BEREC decision, the price of "auto gas" (LPG used for motor vehicles) also dropped to Tk 46.59 (including VAT) per litre from the previous Tk 50.09.

The price of LPG, marketed by state-owned LP Gas Company, will remain the same as it is locally produced with a market share of less than 5 percent.

LPG witnessed the highest price at Tk 1,498 (per 12kg cylinder) in the local market in February this year following the start of the Russia-Ukraine war in February last year.



A BRAVEHEART... Seven-year-old Nusrat may be down with dengue, but that could not dampen her spirit. For the last three days, she is being treated at Dhaka Shishu Hospital. Yesterday when this photojournalist met her at the hospital, Nusrat, a resident of Jurain, was feeling a little better and was seen keeping herself busy watching cartoons on a tablet.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

**PRAYER  
TIMING**  
JULY 4

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17

JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION