

## Democracy crucial to development

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her Awami League government wants the continuation of the democratic process to maintain the country's development spree.

She said this while inaugurating a new office for officers of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat at the Parliament Bhavan.

She said the country's democratic trend is the result of long struggle and all have to keep in mind that it did not happen overnight.

"Since forming the government in 2009, we have been able to strengthen our democratic process. As a result, the whole country has changed," she said.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury also spoke on the occasion.

She said the activities of the office of Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat would be fully shifted to new compound.

Besides, an archive on life, works and struggles of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Liberation War will also be set up there by October, she added.



A man spraying mosquito repellents with a fogger machine in front of the secretariat in the capital yesterday. As the number of dengue patients continues to rise rapidly, and fatalities soar, authorities are taking various measures to curb the menace.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## METRO RAIL

### Test run from Agargaon to Motijheel today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The metro rail authorities will conduct a test run of the trains on the Agargaon-Motijheel section at 4:00pm today.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the test run from Agargaon station, said metro rail authorities said yesterday.

The Uttara-Agargaon section of the country's first metro-rail line, formally known as MRT Line-6, was opened in December last year.

Since then, the demand for the Agargaon-Motijheel section has increased as the major catchment area runs through Mirpur to Motijheel.

At that time, it was announced that the Agargaon-Motijheel section would open in December, while the Motijheel-Kamalapur one would open in June 2025.

But at a June 18 programme, Quader said the prime minister will inaugurate the Agargaon-Motijheel section in October. Till June this year, the section saw 95.20 percent progress, shows the DMTCL monthly progress report.

The government is implementing the fast-track project to build the 21.26km elevated metro line, which will have 17 stations, from Uttara to Kamalapur at a cost of Tk 33,472 crore.

## Samrat's bail extended till Aug 28

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended bail of expelled Jubo League leader Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat till August 28 in a Tk 222-crore money laundering case.

Judge Monjurul Imam of the Special Judge's Court-6 of Dhaka passed the order after Samrat's lawyer Afroza Shahanaj Parvin Hira submitted two separate applications -- one for seeking extension of his bail and another for adjournment of charge framing hearing.

Samrat, a "kingpin" of illegal casino business, was present at the court yesterday. On August 22 last year, the same court granted ad-interim bail to Samrat considering his health.

Following that, Samrat had been taking treatment at BSMMU.

# Dengue spreads to 57 districts

Urgent measures needed to combat the crisis, say experts

HELEMUL ALAM

In a worrisome development, the deadly dengue fever has rapidly spread its grip across Bangladesh, reaching 57 districts of the country.

At least 11,116 dengue patients have so far been hospitalised till yesterday, of whom 3,217 are from outside Dhaka. Meanwhile, two dengue patients died and 661 were hospitalised in the 24 hours till this morning.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported a death toll of 64 dengue patients till yesterday.

As per the DGHS data, all districts, barring Sunamganj, Habiganj, Jhalakathi, Natore, Joypurhat, Chuadanga, and Gopalganj, have reported cases of dengue this year.

According to entomologist GM Saifur Rahman of National



Dengue death toll 64

Total number of patients 11,116

2,129 still undergoing treatment

661 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

University, the absence of surveillance at the district level has been a critical oversight throughout the year, despite its crucial importance.

"The government should establish an effective surveillance system to identify dengue hotspots,

The government should establish an effective surveillance system to identify dengue hotspots, enabling local government departments, community organisations, and educational institutions to carry out targeted interventions.

GM Saifur Rahman  
Entomologist

enabling local government departments, community organisations, and educational institutions to carry out targeted interventions," he said.

Saifur also highlighted the shared responsibility of both

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## CASE AGAINST DR YUNUS

### Court sets July 13 for recording depositions

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A labour court in Dhaka yesterday set July 13 for recording depositions in a case filed against Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, also chairman of Grameen Telecom, and its three other top officials for violating labour laws.

Sheikh Merina Sultana, chairman of the Third Labour Court of Dhaka, passed the order.

The prosecution yesterday filed a petition with the court, seeking cancellation of Yunus' bail, but the court rejected the petition, he added.

On June 6, the court framed charges against Yunus and Grameen

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## 'Nur admitted meeting Safadi'

### Claims a faction of Gono Odhikar Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Member Secretary of the Gono Odhikar Parishad Nurul Haque Nur admitted meeting Israeli citizen Mendi N Safadi in several internal meetings, claimed leaders of a faction of the party.

Faruk Hasan, a joint convener of the platform, made the claim on behalf of Nur's opposing faction within Gono Odhikar at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Joint conveners of the party Mia Mashiuzzaman, Saddam Hossain, Zakaria Palash, and joint member secretaries -- Tariq Rahman, Abul Kalam Azad and Abu Saeed were present in the press conference, among others.

"During a meeting held on June 18, the party's convener Reza Kibria raised several allegations against Nur which included meeting Safadi, receiving personal financial benefits from the party funds and not providing accounts of the expenditure," said Faruk.

"In view of the complaint, Nur admitted holding a meeting with Safadi in Qatar. However, he refused to disclose the agenda of the meeting," he added.

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A city corporation worker removing a tangled web of overhead cables, which has been a long-standing nuisance for Dhaka residents. The photo was taken in Paltan area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## BOSILA, HEMAYETPUR

# Most buildings built illegally

State minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the buildings at the city's nearby Bosila, Hemayetpur and Sugandha Housings have been constructed illegally and without permission from Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk).

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Sharif Ahmed said this at parliament yesterday while replying to a query from Jatiya Party MP Fakhru Imam.

With Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair, the question-answer was tabled.

In a written answer, the junior

minister said supervision has improved significantly as Rajuk got additional manpower after 2022.

He also said some unscrupulous people might be collecting money from the owners of illegally constructed buildings in the name of Rajuk.

The state minister, however, said, so far, no complaint has been received against any employee of Rajuk.

Proper measures will be taken against the responsible persons as per service rules if any complaint is received in this regard. Meanwhile, State Minister for Primary and

Mass Education Zakir Hossen told parliament yesterday that the country has a total of 6,704 government primary schools with dilapidated buildings.

The state minister said this in reply to a query from ruling Awami League MP Shah E. Alam from Barishal-2.

He said a list of 2,049 schools has been sent to the demand-based government primary school development project for the construction of additional classroom buildings.

The state minister also said

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## Rejoinder, our reply

Dr Masum Siraj, senior Consultant and head of cardiac surgery department at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute in Dhaka, has sent a rejoinder to our report headlined "Surgeon accused of mistreatment" published on June 13.

He claimed that the report was untrue and one-sided, and presented unjustly with a motive by manipulating information, and without discussing with him.

In his rejoinder, he said the bypass surgery on a patient named Kanchan Kumar Dey was done on an emergency basis as per the protocol to save his life.

"During the surgery, one bypass graft was done in each of the three blood vessels. By protocol, graft needs to be done on the healthy part of the blood vessel next to the vessel stenosis. But no healthy part was found in the case of the patient. The entire vessel was thick and rough... Besides, the status of the vein and artery tissue used [in the bypass] was not also in good condition. The part of Aorta in the upper point of vein graft was sclerosed. All of these three conditions is harmful

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PRAYER  
TIMING



JULY 7

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-10 12-30 5-00 6-55 8-17

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

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