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## DNCC, JU team up to curb dengue

### Plan to set up research centre on campus; DNCC allocates Tk 122cr for mosquito control

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka North City Corporation has announced its annual budget for the financial year 2023-24, with a primary focus on addressing the mosquito menace, allocating Tk 121.84 crore for this purpose, which constitutes 2.32 percent of the total budget.

In the previous fiscal year, DNCC allocated Tk 111 crore on mosquito control. However, according to the revised budget, the expenditure on this sector was reduced to Tk 74.84 crore.

This year's allocation is significantly higher, approximately 1.5 times more than the expenditure in the last year's revised budget.

The current budget allocates Tk 84.50 crore for mosquito control activities, including Tk 45 crore for the purchase of mosquito repellents and Tk 30 crore for outsourcing mosquito control measures.

Additionally, Tk 30 crore has been allocated for the procurement of necessary equipment to carry out mosquito control activities. Furthermore, Tk 7.34 crore has been set aside for dengue prevention, cleanliness activities, and campaigns.

Mayor Md Atiqul Islam announced the Tk 5,269.45 crore budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 during a press conference at the DNCC hall room yesterday afternoon.

The previous year's revised budget was Tk 2,950.98 crore. Experts emphasised the importance of consistent

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Amidst a backdrop of clouds, boats gently glide over the clear waters of Buriganga. This pleasant but unique sight is because of the recent rise in the river's water level. However, challenges still persist as the Dhaka's lifeline is often under threat due to industrial pollution and encroachment. This photo was taken in Sadarghat area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## 9TH WAGE BOARD FOR JOURNOS SC to hear state's plea Aug 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed August 28 for hearing a leave to appeal petition filed by the state challenging the High Court verdict declaring the cabinet committee's recommendations in the 9th Wage Board illegal.

In the 12 Chapter of the 9th Wage Board, the cabinet committee recommended that journalists and employees of newspapers and news agencies themselves will pay their income taxes, they will get only one gratuity in a year, and the decisions of the 9th wage board might be implemented in phases.

Yesterday, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, sent the state's petition to its full bench and fixed August 28 for hearing.

Following a petition filed by Md Mabubuzzaman, the then secretary of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Employees Union, the HC on November 6 last year delivered the verdict.

The state filed the petition recently seeking a stay on the HC verdict.

## They feud, people suffer

### DSCC suspends birth, death certificates issuance for over a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation has suspended issuing birth and death registration certificates for more than a month over a feud regarding the revenue generated from these activities, leaving citizens in utter distress.

The corporation has to spend Tk 100 to issue a certificate, but the fees paid by the people for the service go to the government exchequer, said DSCC officials.

The corporation has to bear all the expenses, including salaries and allowances for employees and printing costs.

"We bear all the expenses. For example, the printing cost of a birth or death certificate is Tk 40. We have to provide salaries and allowances to the people who do the work, but we don't get the fees that people pay for the certificates. So, we have temporarily suspended the services," said Mizanur Rahman, chief executive officer of DSCC.

"We have held several discussions with the LGD division over the issue. We will resume the services once the

issue is sorted," he added.

Meanwhile, thousands of citizens are left helpless as they are not getting the much-required documents.

Monju Ara Begum, a resident of Kamalapur, said she has been shuttling back and forth to the city corporation office for the past one month for her one-year-old son's birth registration.

**We have held several discussions with the LGD division over the issue. We will resume the services once the issue is sorted.**

MIZANUR RAHMAN  
Chief executive officer of DSCC

"I want to get my son's passport done, and for that I need his birth certificate. But I was told by the corporation that the birth registration process is on hold for the time being on the orders of the mayor. No one knows when the services will resume," she said.

Mehedi Hasan, a resident of Armanitola, said, "I need a birth certificate for my daughter's

school admission, but I didn't get it. As I went to the city corporation's office, they said due to server problems at the Birth and Death Registration office, they won't give me the certificate."

Birth certificates have been made mandatory for 19 citizens' services, including admission to educational institutions, issuance of passports and national identity cards, and visa applications.

However, Dhaka North City Corporation is registering and providing birth and death certificates as before.

Contacted, Office of the Registrar of Birth and Death officials denied having problems with the server.

"There is only one server for the entire country. If the birth registration process is normal throughout the country, why will there be a problem in areas that are under DSCC's jurisdiction? The server is perfectly fine," Registrar General Rashedul Hasan told this newspaper yesterday.

"We don't receive any fees. The entire fees for the birth and

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## Jama'atul Ansar now under control

### Rab says after arresting outfit's another top leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the arrest of the ameer of militant outfit Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya yesterday and arrest of its many top leaders and operatives earlier, the group has lost much of its strength, said officials of Rab and CTC.

The law enforcers had previously identified the group as a serious security threat due to its combat training, operational tactics, and activities.

Members of the elite force arrested ameer of Jama'atul Ansar Anisur Rahman alias Mahmud, 32, raiding his rented house in Louhajong of Munshiganj around 3:00am.

Anisur's two associates Kazi Soraj Uddin alias Siraj, 34, and Mahfuzur Rahman Bijoy, were also arrested during the drive along with firearms, ammunition, bomb-making materials, radical contents, and cash.

In addition to his connections with Ansar al-Islam leaders, Mahmud met with top militant Maj (sacked) Zia on multiple occasions and received Tk 15 lakh from Ansar al-Islam. Both groups also signed an agreement, with Ansar al-Islam providing IT and security training to Jama'atul Ansar members while receiving combat training in return.

Earlier on June 23, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime

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## 'They're doing this to put pressure on us' Say protesting teachers after DSHE asks for list of absent teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) asked for a list of head teachers, assistant head teachers and assistant teachers who remained absent from their educational institutions on Sunday without permission from the authorities concerned.

DSHE Dhaka office asked the district education officials to submit the list by yesterday, said a letter signed by its acting deputy director ASM Abdul Khalek on Sunday.

The decision was taken at a time when hundreds of teachers across the country have been holding a sit-in programme in front of Jatiya Press Club since July 11 to press home their demand for the nationalisation of secondary education.

"The DSHE took such a decision to create a pressure on the protesting teachers and suppress the movement," said Sheikh Kawsar Ahmed, general secretary of Bangladesh Teachers Association.

He termed the government decision a "threat" for the protesting teachers. "But we won't leave the road, until our demand is met," Sheikh Kawsar Ahmed said.

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## REG OF 2 PARTIES AB Party protests EC decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The EC has made itself extremely controversial by taking step to provide registration to political parties that are "unknown" or saw "sudden rise", said leaders of Amar Bangladesh (AB) Party yesterday.

They said this while protesting the decision of not providing registration to the AB Party through a letter to EC secretary. The letter was signed by AB Party convener AFM Solaiman Chowdhury.

The EC is set to register Bangladesh Nationalist Movement and Bangladesh Supreme Party as political parties. It issued a notification on July 17, saying anyone can object to this decision till July 26.



Nishimura Yasutoshi, Japanese minister for economy, trade and industry of Japan, took a ride on Dhaka's metro rail yesterday. He went on a round trip from Uttara North Station to Pallabi station in the afternoon. Shahriar Alam, state minister for foreign affairs, accompanied him. "The experience was very good," the Japanese minister told reporters at Uttara North Station around 4:00pm. He also visited the third terminal at Dhaka airport. Yasutoshi arrived in Dhaka on Sunday on a two-day visit to discuss ways to enhance economic cooperation between the two friendly countries, reports UNB.

PHOTO: TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

## Speeding bus kills siblings

STAR REPORT

Two siblings were killed after a bus ran them over on the Dhaka-Mawa Expressway at Purbha Hasamdia area in Faridpur's Bhanga upazila yesterday afternoon.

Md Hamim, 11, and his elder brother Mahfuzur Rahman, 29, were from Natun Dorbeshpur village in Meherpur Sadar upazila.

Witnesses said the brothers were waiting for a Dhaka bound bus on the expressway. As a bus of Elish Paribahan was approaching around 2:30pm, Mahfuz and his brother signalled it to stop, but the speeding bus ran them over.

Jewel Sheikh, sub-inspector of Bhanga Highway Police Station, said, "Hamim died on the spot while Mahfuzur Rahman was declared dead at upazila health complex."

## RAMPURA-DEMRA EXPRESSWAY

## AIIB approves \$75m loan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved a loan of \$75 million for the Rampura-Amulia-Demra Expressway project.

According to a statement published on AIIB website yesterday, the multilateral development bank approved the loan on July 20.

The project is developed through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) structure.

The PPP contract was signed between the Roads and Highways Department and China Communications Construction Company Limited and China Road and Bridge Corporation in January last year.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$261 million, as per AIIB document.

The scope of the project is to design, build and operate a 12.5km four-lane access-controlled highway, including an 8.15km elevated section and a 4.35km at-grade section, by upgrading an existing two-lane undivided carriageway, the document shows.

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