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# Mother or legal guardian's name will do too

## HC observes on discriminatory practices in filling up SSC, HSC forms

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court in the full text of a verdict has directed the government to allow the SSC and HSC candidates to mention the names of their fathers or mothers or legal guardians while filling in student information form (SIF) for examinations.

"The respondents (officials concerned of the government) are directed to amend the student identification form and enable the candidates appearing in SSC/HSC examinations to include by way of identification information regarding either the father's/mother's or the name of their lawful guardians," the HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Md Khairul Alam said in the 14-page full text of verdict which was released recently.

The bench delivered the landmark verdict on January 24 this year following a 14-year-old writ petition, removing a gender discriminatory practice that has been a hurdle for many in pursuing education.

Using the father's name in the form was mandatory when the writ petition was filed in 2009.

On that day (January 24), the HC declared illegal and unconstitutional the refusal to provide admit cards to SSC and HSC candidates who have not used their fathers' names in the SIF.

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BNP formed a human chain in front of its Nayapaltan headquarters in the capital yesterday, marking International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Want our fathers back

### Say two daughters of 'missing' BNP activists

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

A decade has passed since Hridi's father, Parvej Reza, the then president of Paltan Thana Chhatra Dal, went missing without a trace. Year after year, on the occasion of International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances, the 12-year-old participates in various events, demanding the return of her father.

"I have been attending these events for as long as I can remember. I don't have many memories of him. I want my father back," she said yesterday holding a photograph of her father, her small hands gripping the frame tightly.

She was talking at a human chain organised by BNP to commemorate the day in front of its Nayapaltan party office in Dhaka.

"I don't want to observe

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## US deputy assistant secretary due next week

UNB, Dhaka

Mira Resnick, US deputy assistant secretary of state for regional security at the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, is likely to visit Dhaka next week to discuss issues of mutual interest.

She will likely arrive in Dhaka on September 4, as both the countries are preparing to hold the next round of security dialogue, said a foreign ministry official.

Resnick oversees the Bureau's Office of Regional Security and Arms Transfers, which manages over US \$40 billion annually in government-to-government defence equipment transfers through Foreign Military Sales, Third Party Transfers, and Excess Defense Articles.

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 31					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:30	12:45	4:45	6:33	8:00	
JAMAAT 5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36	8:30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

## FEMALE DENGUE PATIENTS

# Higher mortality despite lower cases

HELEMUL ALAM

Amid the ongoing dengue outbreak, a recent data released by the Directorate General of Health Services has revealed a stark contrast in the impact of the mosquito-borne disease on men and women.

While men account for a higher percentage of dengue cases, comprising 62 percent of the reported infections, a concerning 63 percent of the reported deaths among dengue patients are female.

Delving deeper into the statistics, it becomes evident that the story of dengue's impact extends beyond mere infection rates, highlighting a complex interplay of healthcare accessibility, societal norms, and individual health disparities, said experts.

Late hospitalisation, malnutrition, weak immune system and social taboo are the main factors of high female death rate, they claimed.

Meanwhile, with seven new deaths recorded yesterday, the total number of dengue deaths rose to 576 this year, of which, 333 are female and 243 male.

Besides, with the 2,367 new cases, total number of cases increased to 1,21,500, of which, 75,489 are male and 46,011 female.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said

many female patients who have comorbidity (obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, high blood lipid levels, arthritis, asthma, sleep apnea) are susceptible to dengue infection.

"There are some female patients who are pregnant. They are usually from groups who need special attention. Then there are women whose condition may become critical if they are infected with dengue during the time of their

**Women's health conditions are often neglected and, in many cases, they are taken to the hospital late.**

HM NAZMUL AHSAN  
Associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital

menstruation," Nazmul said.

"These patients are vulnerable and many die if they do not get proper treatment," he added.

Another reason may be attributed to the patriarchal social norm -- women's health conditions are often neglected and, in many cases, they are taken to the hospital late, he explained.

When female patients have comorbidity, issues such as amenia (absence or cessation of menstruation) and a weakened immune system contribute significantly to women's mortality

or morbidity, he said.

He said dengue patients should immediately be hospitalised if they suffer from severe stomach aches, breathing difficulties, severe weakness, vomiting, or bleeding from gums and nose.

"If a patient showing such symptoms is not hospitalised within 24 hours, they may have dengue shock syndrome," he added.

There are two types of dengue shocks -- compensated shocks and decompensated shocks. If a patient is hospitalised immediately after their compensated shock, they don't reach decompensated shock, where the chance to be cured is only 50 percent, he said.

"The patient's blood pressure may remain normal during a compensated shock, which is why many don't realise it. Signs of compensated shock may include a drop in body temperature, increased heart rate, and increased breathing rate," Prof Nazmul added.

Entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University echoed the same when asked about high female death rates.

Regarding male patients, he said people of the 21-40 age group go outdoors a lot, they are at risk of getting infected.

"People have to wear full sleeve tops, socks, shoes, and use mosquito nets while sleeping," he said.

## Marcon's visit likely on Sept 11: Momen

### Russia FM due on September 7

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

French President Emmanuel Macron is likely to visit Bangladesh on



September 11 and climate change, Rohingya and trade issues will be among the topics of bilateral discussion, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said.

The French president is expected to visit Dhaka after attending the G20 summit in New Delhi scheduled for September 9-10.

France is a major player in climate change, especially in the Loss and Damage Initiative through which the climate-affected countries can get compensation, Momen told reporters after an event at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

He said the major powers in Europe can also play an important role in helping address the Rohingya crisis.

"We will also talk about our bilateral trade and investment, regular migration etc during his visit," Momen said.

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## NIKO GRAFT CASE

# No bar in running trial of Khaleda: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the lower court concerned to run trial proceedings against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the Niko graft case.

The HC rejected a petition, which Khaleda filed earlier on March 19, challenging a lower court order that framed charges against her and seven others in the corruption case.

The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Aminul Islam passed the order after hearing on the matter.

On May 17, the BNP chairperson filed the revision petition with the HC through her lawyers to scrap the trial court order, saying the charges were framed illegally.

The ACC filed the case on December 9, 2007,

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## BNP started new game to foil polls Says Quader regarding Yunus issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Taking Dr Muhammad Yunus on board, BNP has started a new game to foil the election after failing to intensify their movement, alleged Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

He warned that they would not allow this "evil game" to be played.

"Their [BNP's] movement has lost momentum and failed to gather support. In this situation, they have started a new game with Dr Yunus, dreaming of a 1/11 situation," said Quader.

He made the remarks while addressing an event commemorating the 49th martyrdom anniversary

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A cloud of smoke coming from burning garbage dumped on the Dhaka-Aricha highway makes visibility an issue for vehicle drivers plying the road. Such actions not just pollute the environment but may also lead to accidents. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## US envoy meets DMP chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas held a meeting with Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruk at DMP headquarters yesterday. The meeting was held between 11:00am and 12:30pm.

"Ambassador Haas met with the police commissioner and appreciated the chance to discuss pre-election security environment and importance of respecting human rights in policing," US Embassy Spokesperson Bryan Schiller told The Daily Star.

However, he did not further elaborate on the matter.

DMP spokesperson Faruk Hossain said Peter Haas sought to know about the recent operation against militants in Moulvibazar and subsequent arrests. He also asked if there is a fresh surge of militancy in Bangladesh.

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