

ASEAN SUMMIT  
President to  
visit Indonesia

UNB, Dhaka

President Md Shahabuddin will visit Indonesia for the first time to attend the 43rd ASEAN Summit, upon the invitation of the country's President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo.

The summit will be held in Jakarta Convention Center on September 5-7.

The president is scheduled to depart Dhaka on September 4, said Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen, who will accompany him during the visit, at a media briefing at the ministry yesterday.

There will be a president-level bilateral meeting between the two nations, said Momen, adding that two MoUs on cooperation in the areas of energy and health could be signed.

Speaking as guest of chair, Shahabuddin will deliver a speech at the closing session on "Strengthening regional architecture to support the epicentrum of growth from the perspective of IORA," added Momen.



A motorbiker struggles to maintain balance on the inundated Malibagh-Khilgaon road in the capital. The potholes on the road's rutted surface, exacerbated by regular waterlogging, further add to his vehicle's unsteadiness. The photo was taken yesterday near Malibagh Railgate.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SATELLITE PLANT  
Dhaka hails  
French  
proposal

DIPLOMATIC  
CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering the French proposal of setting up observation satellite plant in Bangladesh and buying planes from Airbus.

"When we went to France [in 2021], they proposed it. We are considering the proposal. I think we welcome it," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said during a briefing yesterday.

He said the government is also considering to buy another satellite from France.

The first satellite of Bangladesh-Bangabandhu Satellite-1, a geostationary communications and broadcasting satellite, was launched on May 12, 2018.

During the Prime Minister's visit to France in 2021, France proposed selling two more satellites.

Momen said France also wants to sell 10 planes including two cargoes. Due to dollar crisis, the processing is delayed.

"We want both Boeing and Airbus. France technology is good, but final decision has yet to be taken," he said.

The issues will be discussed and even deals may be signed on the issues during the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron on September 11, officials concerned said.

DENGUE OUTBREAK

Country sees third  
highest daily deaths

17 die, 2,308 hospitalised; DNCC mayor stresses awareness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 17 more people died from dengue in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday as the country reported the third highest number of deaths in a single day this year.

Of the 17 deaths, 16 were reported in the capital.

With this, the total number of deaths from dengue this year rose to 593, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

At least 2,308 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours, which took the tally of dengue cases to 1,23,808, making it the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Atiqul Islam, mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), yesterday said, "Cannons or guns are not needed to kill Aedes mosquitoes. All we need to do is not letting water to accumulate."

Addressing a programme at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Academy in the city, Atique said it will be possible to prevent dengue only by removing water stored in yard, terrace, roof and unused container at house.

Awareness is the biggest "weapon" against dengue, he said.

"We have started a campaign on the hashtag "#fightwithbite" for

dengue awareness. This initiative has been taken to increase public participation. Nowadays social media is an easy and big platform. I request everyone to spread this awareness message through social media. Social movement should be developed to control dengue. Everyone should be aware," said Mayor Atique.

It will be possible to prevent dengue only by removing water stored in yard, terrace, roof and unused container at house.

ATIQUUL ISLAM  
DNCC mayor

DNCC mayor also said, "Facebook influencers are involved in dengue awareness activities. Father and son of popular Facebook content creator Bap Ka Betta, Sijdas of Sijdas Classroom have come to tell about what to do to prevent dengue. I request other Facebook influencers to make people aware..."

Responding to a reporter's query, the mayor said they are trying in different ways to control dengue. Besides, they are continuing regular activities to prevent the mosquito-borne

disease and trying to involve everyone in those.

"I incorporated people popular on Facebook into the campaign. A theatre group consisting of students from various universities will make people aware by organising plays. They will... perform street plays in ten zones of the DNCC for the next one month," he said.

The mayor said they will also campaign by displaying the picture of Aedes mosquito on 20 rickshaws.

"If everyone tries together, it is possible to control Aedes mosquito," he added.

Prof Emeritus ABM Abdullah of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) said, "Aedes mosquitoes breed both indoors and outdoors. But it grows more in stagnant water at home. They are sometimes called a domesticated mosquito. Therefore, house should be kept clean... Try to save yourselves from mosquito bites."

Dr Mostak Hossain, former chief scientific officer at the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), said, "The monsoon is going on. If rainwater accumulates, Aedes mosquitoes breed there. So, within three days, the accumulated water should be thrown away."

Woman  
dies from  
attempted  
mugging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Entrepreneur Syeda Amina Haque was returning to her Dhanmondi home in a rickshaw with her husband at 8:55am on August 25, when two motorbike-riding muggers grabbed and pulled her bag, causing her to fall from the rickshaw, eventually leading to her death.

Amina, a general council member of FBCCI, the apex body of traders, was rushed to the Trauma Centre in the city's Shyamoli as she suffered serious injuries along with five broken ribs.

The 58-year-old entrepreneur died around 7:30pm the same day.

Amina ran a boutique house and was the General Secretary of Bangladesh Boutique House Owners Association.

On August 28, three days after her death, the victim's younger son Ahmed Omar Nayeem filed a murder case with Dhanmondi Police Station against some unnamed people.

Meanwhile, police identified two muggers -- Swapan Sarkar and his brother-in-law Mohammad Sabbir, by scrutinising CCTV footage, and arrested them on August 29.

Investigation officer of the case, Sub-Inspector Shariful Islam of

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Food, energy  
security, climate  
to top agenda

Says Momen ahead of G20  
Summit in India

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh wants the G20 to help end the Russia-Ukraine war and address the challenges of food and energy security and climate change that are affecting the country, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

"Bangladesh is the spokesperson of the Global South and remains vocal on climate issues. We do not want war. We want an end to the war," said Momen during a briefing at the foreign ministry yesterday.

He said Bangladesh would call for corrective actions to ensure food and energy security globally.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the G20 summit in New Delhi scheduled on September 9-10. There will also be a bilateral meeting between her and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the sideline.

Momen said the Indian Presidency of the G20 has brought a dynamic change in the concept and they hosted around 250 events in 50 cities.

He said India has taken a leadership role and Bangladesh will get the opportunity to draw attention to the developed countries.

"Bangladesh's participation at the upcoming G20 Summit aligns with our value-driven diplomatic efforts to champion the cause of sustainable development globally," he said.

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Repressive  
provisions of DSA  
remain in CSA

Says Manabadhikar  
Shongskriti Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Repressive provisions of the Digital Security Act remain in the draft Cyber Security Act. The new act only witnessed a change in its name and amendments to some of its provisions, said a Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF) report yesterday.

The rights organisation made the observation in their human rights report for the month of August. It publishes such a report every month based on various news reports and its own observations.

The report, signed by MSF founder Sultana Kamal, said the cabinet has approved CSA in the face of widespread criticism at home and abroad. However, the demand for discussions with all professional organisations was ignored in that process.

Article 6 of CSA and that of DSA remain identical, except for one modification in its corresponding penalty, read the report.

Also, Section 43 of DSA is the same as Section 42 of CSA. The sections states that a police officer search an office or a person, seize a computer or any such device, or even arrest without a warrant.

CSA can be used to prevent free-thinkers, including journalists, from expressing their opinions. Since many sections of CSA have been made bailable, those detained under the earlier acts are entitled to bail in equity, the report said.

According to MSF report, there were five cases under DSA in August. A total of four persons, including a juvenile, have been arrested in four of these cases filed over making "defamatory remarks" against Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through social media posts, shares, and comments.

In August, 40 journalists were harassed in various ways while performing their professional duties, it added.

FOREIGN OBSERVERS IN POLLS  
EC finalises draft  
of new guidelines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission Secretariat yesterday finalised in principle the draft of the new guidelines for foreign election observers and journalists.

The draft will be sent to the election commissioners next week for their approval, officials said after an inter-ministerial meeting at the EC office yesterday.

Officials from the ministries of foreign affairs, home and information, and from the National Board of Revenue were present there.

Ashok Kumar Debnath, additional secretary to the EC Secretariat and chief of the committee to prepare the new guidelines, said they prepared the draft without any major changes.

"We will have an observer-friendly guideline," he told reporters after the meeting.

Asked about whether the EC will keep a provision requiring foreign observers to have prior monitoring experience, Ashok said, "We can suggest about the issue of observers requiring prior monitoring experience."

The EC moved to amend the existing guidelines after Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen met on August 10 to discuss the issue, said EC officials.

They held the discussion as some foreign observers, especially of the European Union, want to bring in

The draft will be sent to the election commissioners next week for their approval.



A mobile court seizes batteries of three-wheelers in Rajbari, Gazipur. When this photo journalist inquired the reason behind not seizing the vehicles, an executive magistrate said they do not have enough space for all the vehicles and opted for this alternative to stop their illegal plying on main roads. The photo was taken yesterday in front of the area's DC office.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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