

54 patients

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 University of Health Sciences, Dhaka, stressed the importance of harnessing collective efforts to maximise the benefits of organ transplantation.

Prof Jermy Chapman, editor-in-chief of Australian Transplantation Journal, said deceased organ donation provides perhaps the most cost-effective treatment to patients with end-stage organ failure, especially for kidney failure.

However, more donations from deceased individuals are required, alongside investment and infrastructural development that are critical to success, as well as engagement of the community and religious leadership, he added.

Professor Curie Ahn, secretary general of the Asian Society of Transplantation, stressed the importance of raising awareness about kidney transplantation as it is a cost-effective alternative to dialysis, and called upon both government and private organisations to initiate projects to save lives by promoting transplantation.

Efforts on

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 duties with skill, reputation and patriotism in and outside the country. It is my hope that you will work diligently to maintain this hard-earned reputation," she said.

Earlier, on her arrival at the venue, the prime minister was received by Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed and Commandant of Bangladesh Infantry Regimental Centre and Major General Khandakar Md Shahedul Emran.

Hasina was given a guard of honour by a smartly turned out contingent of the army. She took salute and inspected the parade riding on an open jeep, reports UNB.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
 MARCH 3

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5:15	12:45	4:30	6:05	7:30
JANAT	5:50	1:15	4:45	6:10
ASMAAT	5:50	1:15	4:45	6:10

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Vehicles stuck in a tailback as far as eyes can see. For commuters in Dhaka, traffic jam has turned daily trips into nightmares. The photo was taken on Mirpur Road in Science Lab area yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Declared risky, hospital building still in use

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A one storey building of Jamalpur General Hospital, which was declared risky for its dilapidated condition, is still being used for treatment of outdoor patients.

The Public Works Department in January 2021 declared the building unsafe and unusable and directed the hospital authorities to vacate and abandon it.

The hospital authority, however, has continued to use it for the last three years as there is no alternative building for treating outdoor patients.

As such, patients are undergoing treatment in the building, constructed in 1961, amid risk.

Visiting the building recently, this correspondent observed that



many cracks have developed in the walls and ceiling, allowing rainwater to seep in the building and leave the floors wet during

monsoon. Around 1,500 patients come to avail the hospital's outdoor facilities daily, said Mahfuzur

Rahman, assistant director of the hospital.

Several patients sustained injuries due to plasters falling off the ceiling at different times, said hospital sources.

"We are always afraid that the roof might collapse while we are on duty," said Aminul Haque, medical technologist at the hospital's blood bank.

"The building is in a sorry state and should not be used for our activities any longer due to the risks associated with it," said Shamim Iftakhar, resident medical officer.

"The building was declared risky in 2021. A proposal to construct a new building for the hospital has been sent to the health ministry," said FM Ashrafur Awal, sub-divisional engineer of PWD.

## Change definition of climate migrants

### Foreign minister urges global community

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud has highlighted the adverse effects of global warming that among other factors are negatively contributing towards the rise of climate migrants and refugees.

Bangladesh urged the global community to urgently change the definition of climate migrants and refugees to bring it in line with the UN definition of migrants and refugees.

At the first panel discussion of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum held in Antalya, Türkiye yesterday, the foreign minister spoke on global climate change, climate migrant and climate refugee issues.

The foreign ministers of Malaysia and Bangladesh, state minister for foreign affairs of Sri Lanka, and deputy minister for foreign affairs of Vietnam discussed various aspects of the "Building Asia-Pacific Regional Architecture: The Challenge of Unmatching Interests".

Hasan mentioned that like many small and island nations, Bangladesh has become one of the worst sufferers of climate change and global warming. The entire coastal area of Bangladesh is at the risk of inundation due to the sea level rise and rise of greenhouse gases, he said.

"And this phenomenon is constantly causing climate migration. The issue is now so real that Bangladesh urgently needs the world community to change the definition of climate migrants and refugees," he said.

## Mosquito menace

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to eradicate mosquitoes. This year, Tk 17.40 crore has been proposed for waste management and mosquito eradication.

Anisur Rahman, chief conservancy officer, said black oil (80 percent diesel and 20 percent furnace oil) is being sprinkled in city drains to prevent mosquito breeding. "We also buy larvicide, adulticide, various oils, to spray those round the year."

"Every day, 31 conservancy workers spray those in 31 wards under the city corporation. Besides, 31 temporary workers help them in this regard," he said.

However, they face challenges to clean the drains as most of them are choked with garbage

and polythene used by city dwellers, he alleged.

KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque said it is a continuous process to spray mosquito insecticide and clean drains.

"After taking charge for the third term, I urged the city dwellers to clean their household properly and refrain from throwing garbage into drains. But most of them do not follow the directions," he said.

"It's not possible for the city corporation alone to eradicate mosquitoes... everyone should come forward and assist us," he added.

Khaleque said KCC is now implementing phase-1 of a drainage project worth Tk 823 crore, which will mitigate the mosquito menace.

## Amend construction

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Speakers at the event demanded that Rakjdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) make its data on building categories public in order to enable general people to identify risky buildings in the country.

They also demanded that whenever a building is served any notice by a government entity, the owner must hang the notice before the building.

"The Green Cozy Cottage building on Bailey Road got Rajuk's approval for renting only official spaces, but it instead rented to eight restaurants, a juice bar, coffee shop and electronic shops, breaching the Building Construction Rules and urban planning norms," BIP president Adil Mohammed Khan said in a written speech.

"The building's owners violated several laws and rules through its design, construction and management. There were not enough fire security systems in the building. There were neither any windows, nor adequate ventilation, which was the main reason for such high casualties. Also, the lone stairs were occupied by gas

cylinders," he said.

"The fire service authority only served them notices several times but took no other steps," Adil Mohammad, also a professor at Jahangirnagar University, also said.

"In the previous fire incidents, no government officials were found guilty of negligence. However, all government entities including Rajuk, city corporation, fire service, environment department, district administration, police and explosives department have responsibilities in such incidents for their negligence," he added.

BIP general secretary Shaikh Muhammad Mehedi Ahsan said the London and Chicago city authorities changed their full fire security measures following fire incidents in 1666 and 1871 respectively, but Bangladesh is yet to take any measure in this regard.

"The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 spread across nine square kilometres and left over 300 casualties. Are we waiting for such a massive incident to happen till we overhaul our systems? Are 46 lives not enough?" he asked.

## Govt must bear

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that 15 restaurants operate without permission in a single building in the Satmasjid Road area of Dhanmondi. He further noted the presence of numerous unlicensed restaurants along Road-27 in Dhanmondi and in multi storied buildings in Taltala, Khilgaon.

Rezaul warned that without government intervention, similar incidents will likely occur in the future. He urged the government to hold responsible entities like Rajuk, the fire brigade, and environmental authorities accountable and implement measures to prevent future occurrences, stressing the need for strict actions against those involved in such incidents.

In 2019, during Rezaul's tenure as Minister of Housing and Public Works, a fire incident at Banani's FR Tower killed 27 persons.

"We investigated and reported against 62 individuals, but disappointingly, despite recommendations from a high level committee, not all were prosecuted, with many names excluded from the charge sheet," Rezaul said.

He called for amending laws to enable the trial of perpetrators through expedited tribunals.

Earlier, at the beginning of the session, the House expressed deep shock over the loss of lives in the Bailey Road fire.

## Rajuk, public

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Sen addressed the state of healthcare facilities in Bangladesh, advocating for the coexistence of private and government hospitals to meet the healthcare needs.

However, he said all healthcare institutions must adhere to established regulations and standards.

## Wish it lasted a bit longer

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construction of a "cultural zone" called Sonar Bangla Sangskritik Boloj has cast a shadow on the future of the Boi Mela at Udyan premises. With the hunt for an alternative venue underway, many fear this might be the last time they witness the magic of the fair at its current home.

"Once a venue for such successful events shifts, it rarely comes back to the original place," said Amartya Bashak, a visitor on the last day. "I came here knowing this could be the last Boi Mela at Udyan. I was taking everything in, trying to savour the moment," he added.

Another visitor, a young writer, expressed similar sentiments. "There's a certain charm to browsing for books here, under the open sky. It's hard to imagine the Boi Mela anywhere else."

Writer Imdadul Haq Milan urged the authorities to hold the fair near Bangla Academy premises in case it is not possible to hold it at Suhrawardy Udyan.

Since 2013, the fair has been organised on the premises of Suhrawardy Udyan alongside Bangla Academy.

**POETRY MOST PUBLISHED, NOVELS MOST SOLD**  
 Among the books published, the number of poetry books was the highest at over 1,100, according to the Bangla Academy.

This figure follows a consistent pattern, with over 1,500 poetry books published in 2020, around 900 in 2021, over 1,000 in 2022, and around 1,200 in 2023.

However, there is a lack of strong reader engagement with poetry.

Amirul Islam, in charge

of Agami Prokashon, said, "Readers mostly bought novels, essays, and historical books on Liberation War this year."

Meanwhile, poetry fans bemoaned a lack of new poets, making it harder to find good collections. "Poetry sales are down overall," said Mollah Mohammad Syed, while browsing poetry books.

"That doesn't mean the importance of poetry has declined. Poems bring out the deepest thoughts and feelings, but not everyone can grasp them," he added.

Sirajul Kabir Chowdhury, managing editor of Anya Prakash, said, "Like every other year, novels are selling the most. Books by renowned writers are selling better than those by new writers."

Arbak Aditto, a poet, said, "People crave poetry. But maybe modern poets aren't connecting with

readers."

Meanwhile, books by writer Rudra Goswami – "Phool Niye Eso", "Tumio Bhalobeso" and "Theko Hridoyei" garnered much attention.

Asked why readers are not buying much poetry books these days, he said modern readers do not have much time in their hand in this fast-paced world. Besides, they have too many options of entertainment. So, new batch of writers need to keep pace with that, and tailor make their poetries based on the demand of young generation readers.

As the sun sets on the 2024 Boi Mela, a wave of goodbyes washed over the fairgrounds. But amidst the goodbyes, there was also a flicker of hope – a hope that the tradition would continue, albeit in a new setting, and the love for books would endure.

Sunset and evening star,  
 And one clear call for me!  
 —Alfred Lord Tennyson

## 22ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY



In Remembrance of our founder Vice-President

This day in 2002, we lost our founder Vice-President Syed Md. Habibul Haque, whose effective guidance, vast knowledge with positive approach still influence our mission towards excellence.

He also served Crystal Insurance Co. Ltd. as the founding Managing Director and one of the Sponsor Directors. On this grief-stricken day we pray for the salvation and eternal peace for him and all other departed souls to be endowed with the divine blessings of the Almighty.

The Volunteers and Staff of  
 Serve the People (STP), 16/1-B, Tallabag, Sobhanbagh, Dhaka.

Regional Public Administration Training Center  
 Office of the Deputy Director  
 Boyra, Khulna

No.: 05.01.4000.002.07.007.24.01, Date: 02.03.2024

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be available on 03 March, 2024 in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Goods mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID
01	941438

This is the online Tender, where e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and No offline/hard copy's will be accepted. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Gp system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@procure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@procure.gov.bd))

(Khatune Jannath)  
 Deputy Director  
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## Request for Quotation: Cleaning Service for BRAC Bank Premises

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to individuals as well as business entities with a network of 187 Branches, 36 Sub-branches, 329 ATMs, 457 SME Unit Offices and 1,040 Agent Banking Outlets across the country. Currently the Bank is seeking vendor(s) to provide the service for hygiene and cleanliness.

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Offer Submission is issued for the mentioned purpose. The RFQ along with details of the submission process can be found on the bank's website <https://www.bracbank.com/en/information/e-tender>

Interested eligible bidders are requested to submit their offer by **March 18, 2024 as per the mentioned bidding process.**

**BRAC BANK**  
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