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Unite for a prosperous Bangladesh President urges all

UNB, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday called for unity among all citizens, regardless of caste or religion, to build a developed and prosperous Bangladesh.

"The existing harmony and mutual amity in the society should be kept unhurt to speed up the national progress and prosperity," said the president while exchanging greetings with the members of the Hindu community at a reception at the Bangabhaban on the occasion of Durga Puja.

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Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman called on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the latter's office at the state guest House Jamuna in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID



## KEEPING MOSQUITOES AT BAY

### PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

Remove stagnant water

Repair cracks on doors and windows

Avoid peak mosquito hours

Use mosquito nets, repellents

Wear full sleeves

### EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS

Aerosol

Mosquito repellent creams

Electronic repellent devices

### NATURAL REMEDIES

Dhoop

Planting lavender

Light Lemongrass flavoured candles

Consuming garlic

## Dengue cases surge outside Dhaka

Lack of anti-mosquito drives, public awareness to blame; death toll still higher in capital

### HELEMUL ALAM

The number of dengue cases outside Dhaka has exceeded those within the capital, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

However, the death toll remains higher in Dhaka.

As of yesterday morning, the total number of dengue cases this year is 42,470, with 24,169 reported outside Dhaka. However, of the 214 deaths, 67 were from outside Dhaka.

Chittogram division leads with 8,203 cases, followed by 6,027 in Dhaka, 3,656 in Barishal, and 3,373 in Khulna, all from non-city corporation areas.

Among the districts, Cox's Bazar has the highest number of cases with 3,536, followed by Narsingdi with 1,265 cases, Chattogram with 1,128, and Barguna with 1,034 cases.

In terms of fatalities, the highest number of deaths occurred at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with 43 deaths, followed by Mugda

### LOCATION-WISE DENGUE CASES

Total Cases 42,470  
Outside Dhaka 24,169

Bangladesh witnessed its first dengue outbreak in Dhaka in 2000. Until 2023, dengue cases had always been higher in Dhaka than elsewhere. However, this trend changed last year, with dengue cases increasing outside Dhaka.

Medical College and Hospital (27), Mitford Hospital (17), and Chattogram Medical College Hospital (15).

Bangladesh witnessed its first dengue outbreak in Dhaka in 2000. Until 2023, dengue cases were always higher in Dhaka than elsewhere. However, this trend

changed last year, with dengue cases increasing outside Dhaka.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist from Jahangirnagar University, attributed this shift to several factors.

"The lack of adequate anti-mosquito drives, limited public awareness, and the possibility of infection by all dengue serotypes have contributed to the surge in cases outside Dhaka," he said.

While the mosquito control efforts in Dhaka have been insufficient, Prof Bashar said the situation outside the capital is worse.

"Residents of Dhaka are more aware of dengue than those living in other areas, which is another reason for the rise in cases outside the capital," he added.

Prof Bashar also mentioned that approximately 50 percent of Dhaka's population has been infected by different serotypes of the dengue virus since 2000, providing some level of immunity.

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Primary registration for hajj by Oct 23

STAR REPORT

The religious affairs ministry yesterday advised prospective hajj pilgrims to complete primary registration for next year's Hajj by October 23.

The hajj division of the ministry issued a notice in this regard.

The notice highlights that, as per the roadmap outlined by the Saudi government, the process for allocating tents at Mina and Arafat and signing contracts with service companies will begin on October 23.

The notice said tent allocation will be conducted on a "first come, first serve" basis. Failure to complete registration by the deadline will result in pilgrims being unable to secure tents in preferred zones at Mina and Arafat.

Pilgrims who face delays in tent allocation or service

### NILIMA JAHAN

For the first time in Bangladesh's history, five female lawyers have been appointed as justices in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

This landmark decision was announced on October 8, when 23 new judges were appointed to the High Court Division, five of whom are women. They were sworn in by Chief Justice

**Five out of 23 judges being women is certainly great news. We must continue to increase the number of women in the judiciary. I would have been even happier if it were more than 10.**

NAZMUN ARA SULTANA

First female justice in HC, Appellate Division

Syed Reafat Ahmed the next day.

This marks a new era in the country's judiciary and represents a significant step forward in promoting women's empowerment within the legal profession.

The newly appointed justices are Mubina

## A HISTORIC MOMENT

Five female justices appointed to HC Division of SC



Nasreen Akhtar



Sathika Hossain



Mubina Asaf



Tamanna Rahman



Ainunnahar Siddika

Asaf, Nasreen Akhtar, Ainunnahar Siddika, Tamanna Rahman, and Sathika Hossain.

Legal experts have praised the appointments as a recognition of the vital contributions women are making to the legal profession.

They believe that the inclusion of five women in the High Court Division will serve as an inspiration for future generations, encouraging more women to pursue careers in law.

Nazmuni Ara Sultana, Bangladesh's first female justice in both the High Court and

Appellate Division, welcomed the move.

"Five out of 23 judges being women is certainly great news. It's a hopeful sign, but we must continue to increase the number of women in the judiciary. I would have been even happier if it were more than 10," she said.

Sultana further said women are excelling in the legal field, often outperforming their male colleagues.

Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua also praised the decision, noting that it reflects a shift from past

tokenism toward merit-based appointments of women.

He added that more women are entering the legal profession, breaking barriers, and excelling despite challenges. At universities, female students are performing as well as their male counterparts, and with specialised law studies, the chance of producing quality lawyers is growing.

"If senior lawyers create opportunities, we will get good lawyers, and good lawyers lead to good judges," he said.

Journos involved with AL govt to face music: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists who were directly involved with the "fascist" Awami League government and supported and instigated mass killing during the July-August uprising will be brought to justice, Information Adviser Nahid Islam said yesterday.

The adviser said this while briefing reporters at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital after handing over donation checks to the protesters injured in the uprising.

Nahid, however, said a committee has been formed under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to look into whether cases were filed against any journalist in an unjust manner.

"If any journalist or any member of his family thinks that they are being harassed through the cases, we will assist them if they reach us," added Nahid.

Responding to a question on the allegation of cases being filed against the protesters, Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud said instructions would be issued from the home ministry shortly so that no action is taken against them.

He also said the police officials who were involved in the killing of the protesters will not be spared, no matter how powerful they are.

Man duped of Tk 17 lakh in insurance scam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man in Dhaka was recently cheated out of Tk 17.67 lakh by a group of scammers who lured him with the promise of a \$5 million payout from a fake insurance claim involving a deceased individual in the US.

Following the victim's case filed with New Market Police Station on Saturday, law enforcers arrested Aziz Molla, one of the fraudsters, from an office called "Model Agency" in Banasree yesterday, said Talebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner (Media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

**On September 29, Md Nuruzzaman, got in touch with a Facebook account named "Anna Harrison". The individual informed him that a Bangladeshi-origin man had died while working in the US and deposited \$5 million in a bank there.**

Talebur said on September 29, the complainant, Md Nuruzzaman, got in touch with a Facebook account named "Anna Harrison". This person provided him with a WhatsApp number and asked him to continue the conversation there.

On WhatsApp, the individual informed Nuruzzaman that a Bangladeshi-origin man named Mohammad Belton had died while working in the US and had deposited \$5 million in Alliance Bank there.

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