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Yunus for digitisation to fight graft

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at a meeting with senior officials yesterday emphasised the importance of digitisation to fight corruption.

The meeting was held at the State Guest House Jamuna. Key decisions taken in the meeting included making tax submission via the e-return portal compulsory for all officials in the greater Dhaka region and encouraging large corporations to adopt e-return systems across the organisation.

The decision to launch an awareness campaign on digitisation was also taken in the meeting.

Md Siraj Uddin Mia, principal secretary to the CA; Md Abdur Rahman Khan, chairman, National Board of Revenue; and ASM Saleh Ahmed, senior secretary, ministry of land, were also present.



A student chases a motorcycle as the rider and passenger cruise through the street without any helmets, a clear violation of traffic law. Under a new initiative, the government is planning to formally include 300 students in the capital's traffic management system. Students will work alongside police officers to assist in regulating traffic. The photo was taken on Mirpur Road yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Govt to include students in traffic management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is planning to formally include 300 students in the city's traffic management system. These students will work alongside police officers to assist in regulating traffic.

Asif Mahmud Sajeeb Bhuiyan, adviser to the Youth and Sports Ministry, proposed the initiative.

Confirming the plan, Khondokar Nazmul Hasan, additional commissioner (traffic) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "We may provide training to students for traffic management if required."

The students will likely work on an outsourcing or payment basis. However, the exact terms will be clarified once the home ministry finalises the process, Hasan added.

Lt Gen (ret) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, adviser to the home ministry, announced the inclusion of students while inaugurating DMP's Traffic Fortnight-2024 at Rajarbagh Police Lines yesterday.

He said students had already begun participating in DMP's traffic fortnight programme and will continue their involvement afterwards. "Initially, around 300 students will be involved, with the number set to increase later," he added.

Students who participate in the programme will receive an honorarium for their services. While Chowdhury did not disclose the exact amount, he said it would be reasonable.

He also highlighted the positive impact students had had on the roads since August 5 when they initially took on traffic management responsibilities.

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7 DU AFFILIATED COLLEGES Students demand separate university Block roads for hours, commuters suffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students from seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University yesterday threatened to take to the streets again from Wednesday if their three-point demand was not met within 24 hours.

Abdur Rahman, one of the movement's coordinators, issued the warning on behalf of the students at the Science Lab intersection around 4:45pm, shortly before the end of their protest programme.

Earlier, with a three-point demand, including the formation of a reform committee to establish an

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Den-2 variant behind rising dengue deaths

HELEMUL ALAM

The Den-2 variant of dengue is proving particularly lethal this year, contributing to the rising death toll.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with three new deaths in the last 24 hours, the total number of fatalities has reached 250, while total dengue cases have climbed to 50,919, including 1,039 new cases reported.

"We are mostly seeing Den-2 (serotype 2) cases this year, similar to last year," said Prof Dr Tahmina Shirin, Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

Dr Shirin said being infected with Den-2 does not necessarily spell danger. However, cross infections involving different dengue serotypes can lead to severe complications, especially if patients are not hospitalised in time. Delayed hospitalisation is one of the key factors behind worsening patient conditions and higher mortality rates, she added.

She advised that anyone diagnosed with fever should immediately consult a doctor and follow prescribed treatments. Keeping well-hydrated is crucial, with coconut water, saline, fruit juices, and homemade drinks recommended to maintain hydration and provide essential vitamins and minerals to aid recovery.

Dr Shirin also stressed the importance of cleanliness

to prevent further infections, urging people to clear stagnant water from yards and rooftops to prevent mosquito breeding.

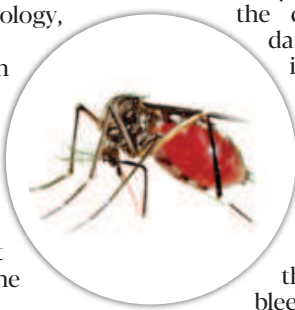
Experts have identified four dengue serotypes (Den-1 to Den-4), each further divided into genotypes. The Den-2 variant, particularly the cosmopolitan sub-variant, is prevalent this year and is known to be associated with severe dengue infections and outbreaks.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, said the cosmopolitan sub-variant is especially dangerous due to its links to bleeding, increased severity, and a higher mortality rate. He pointed out that secondary infections with Den-2 are particularly risky for those previously infected with other serotypes.

"Many patients are going into shock after their fever subsides, which is alarming," said Dr Ahsan. He added that patients with shock syndrome, bleeding, and expanded dengue syndrome are contributing to the rising death toll.

High-risk groups, including the elderly, pregnant women, obese individuals, infants, and those with comorbidities, are more vulnerable.

Early hospitalisation, especially for symptoms such as severe stomach pain, difficulty breathing, and bleeding, is critical to prevent fatal outcomes, he added.



EXTENDING GOVT AGE LIMIT Jobseekers want gazette notification



DU CORRESPONDENT

Over a hundred job seekers staged a sit-in in front of the National Museum in Shahbagh yesterday, demanding that an immediate notification be issued extending the minimum age for entry into government jobs to 35 years.

The demonstrators, who started the sit-in around 11:30am, said they would not leave the premises until the notification was issued.

They were still at the spot around 6:30pm till the filing of this report and said they would continue their sit-in programme all night if needed.

Rajib Hossain, a coordinator of the movement, told reporters that they were planning to go on a hunger strike if their demand was not met yesterday.

Earlier, the Public Administration Reforms Commission recommended that the age limit for entering government jobs be set at 35 years for

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GLOBAL INEQUALITY INDEX Bangladesh slips 17 notches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has fallen 17 positions in a global inequality index. The country has ranked 124th out of 164 countries, according to a report by Oxfam and Development Finance International.

In the previous index published in 2022, Bangladesh held the 107th position out of 161 nations.

Among South Asian countries, the Maldives (66th), Nepal (115th), Sri Lanka (118th), and Bhutan (122nd) ranked higher than Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh performed better than India (127th) and Pakistan (141st).

The report considered factors such as education, health, social protection, progressive taxation, labour rights, and wages.

Bangladesh was highlighted as one of the countries showing "backpedaling" on labour policies, with labour rights and unionisation deteriorating in law and practice compared to previous years.

Among South Asian countries, the Maldives (66th), Nepal (115th), Sri Lanka (118th), and Bhutan (122nd) ranked higher than Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh performed better than India (127th) and Pakistan (141st).

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An official checks the documents of a Lebanon returnee migrant at the Dhaka airport yesterday. The first batch of 54 Bangladeshi expatriates returned from the war-torn Middle Eastern country in the evening.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Schoolteacher found dead at Narail home

STAR REPORT

A schoolteacher was found dead in her home in Narail's Lohagara upazila early yesterday.

The victim is Sabita Rani Bala, 55, headteacher of Char Daulatpur Government Primary School.

She was found dead in her home in the upazila's Char Daulatpur village, said Ashikur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station.

The victim and her husband, Paritosh Kumar Mondal, used to sleep in separate rooms. Paritosh found his room locked when he woke up. He broke the lock of his door, went to check on his wife and found her dead, said the OC, quoting locals.

"The victim's face was covered, suggesting death from suffocation. Evidence at the scene suggests that intruders broke into the house by digging the boundary wall of the property," the officer added.

According to the victim's husband, the attackers also stole gold jewellery and a laptop.

The body was sent to Narail Sadar Hospital for an autopsy.

No case has been filed in this regard yet. Efforts are underway to identify and arrest the culprits, the OC mentioned.