

BGB, BSF DG-level talks postponed

STAR REPORT

The director general-level border talks between Bangladesh and India, initially set for next month in New Delhi, have been postponed.

Speaking to this newspaper yesterday, BGB Deputy Director General (Media) Colonel Mohammad Shariful Islam said with approval from the home ministry, the BGB requested the BSF to delay the meeting by a month, as BGB officials are currently deployed across the country due to the present situation.

The 55th meeting between the DGs of the border forces of the two countries was planned to be held in New Delhi from November 18 to 22, marking the first such meeting since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5.

Indian news agency PTI reported that the meeting has been postponed due to adjustments in Bangladesh's plans.

BGB and BSF chiefs hold these meetings twice a year. PTI, citing sources, mentioned that efforts are underway to schedule a new date for the meeting soon. The last meeting took place in Dhaka in March.

Show proof for claims on police deaths

Urges CA press wing

BSS, Dhaka

Some news outlets and people are deliberately spreading lies and misinformation on the number of police personnel killed during the July-August student-led uprising, the Chief Adviser's Press Wing said in a statement yesterday.

"We have noticed that some news outlets and also some people have been deliberately spreading lies and misinformation on the number of policemen who were killed during the July-August student-led uprising," it read.

According to the Police Headquarters, 44 police personnel lost their lives in the student-led movement, a figure backed by a list of those killed, published by the department.

The statement emphasised that the police department maintains a meticulous record of officers and constables injured or killed in protests or violent incidents.

The Press Wing requested anyone claiming a higher death toll to provide verifiable evidence to support their assertions.



The dengue ward in Mugda Medical College and Hospital seems to almost be at full bed capacity. With cases on the rise, hospital authorities have decided to hang mosquito nets all day round instead of just at night. With November fast approaching, the number of dengue cases are likely to rise further. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

No councillors, NO QUICK SERVICES

Dhaka residents struggle with delayed certification, documentation works

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

With an urgent need for birth certificates of his family members, Mohammad Ziaul Haque, an employee of a private organisation, went to the zonal office of Dhaka North City Corporation in the capital's Mohammadpur on Tuesday.

But he was asked to go to the Ward-27 councillor's office in Farmgate instead, which he found to be locked.

He was also given the phone number of the ward secretary, but no one responded when he called the number throughout the day.

"It's utterly frustrating. We need the birth certificates urgently, as we have to get passports within a month for an urgent trip abroad," said Ziaul.

Around 25 people went to the office on Tuesday to get different documents, only to return empty-handed.

Yasin Ali, a staffer of the ward-27 office, said the office remains closed most of the time, with the secretary showing up at times for a brief period.

The same scenario persists in other ward councillor's offices.

On September 27, all councillors of the two Dhaka city corporations and 10 other city corporations were removed from their posts. Now the ward secretaries are performing duties in their stead.



On September 27, all councillors of DNCC, DSCC were removed from posts

Now ward secretaries performing duties

DNCC, DSCC started to issue certificates from ward-level offices

Many residents complained they face difficulties in getting services

It now takes 3/4 days to get certificates, as ward secretary has to get approval from zonal office first

A councillor used to issue these certificates within an hour

DNCC and DSCC now started to issue different certificates from their ward-level offices in coordination with the zonal office, following a direction from the interim government.

However, many residents complained that they were facing difficulties in getting services.

It now takes three to four days to get certificates, as the ward secretary has to get approval from

the zonal office before issuing a certificate.

A councillor used to issue these certificates within an hour, they added.

Councillors used to issue 23 types of certificates, including citizen certificates, birth and death certificates, character certificates, succession (warisan) certificates, income certificates, voter ID correction certificates,

etc.

Previously, the citizens could reach the councillors anytime.

During a visit to ward-16 of Dhaka South City Corporation on Wednesday, this newspaper found a woman waiting in the councillor's office, where the ward secretary was providing services.

She was having trouble getting her succession certificate, as her elder brother -- who has had no contact with the family for a long time -- was not present.

"I am in dire need of this certificate to get the pension of our father, who passed away in August. If the councillor was still in charge, I wouldn't have faced this much hassle, as he knows us well," said the woman in her mid-50s.

"We are in serious trouble now," she added.

Secretary of Ward-16, Md Badruzzaman, said they cannot provide a warisan certificate to a person without the consent of a successor.

He also said they cannot provide the certificate within a day as they have to take the certificate to the zonal office for its vetting, which takes a few days to be completed.

Echoing Badiuzzaman, Ward-15 Secretary Zahirul Islam said they take five working days to complete a certificate due to the procedure.

After the services restarted on

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16 to 30 age group most vulnerable

As per DGHS data on dengue outbreak

HELEMUL ALAM

Compared to other ages, people in the 16 to 30 age group are the most vulnerable to dengue infection this year.

According to experts, people in this age bracket remain outside home for a significant portion of time, which may have caused the high infection rate.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the highest 8,551 dengue patients are aged 21 to 25, while 7,751 are aged 26 to 30, and 7,308 are aged 16 to 20.

Meanwhile, one more died in the mosquito-borne disease in the 24 hours preceding yesterday morning, while 477 were hospitalised in the same period.

With that, the death toll this year has reached 269, while the total number of cases has risen to 54,702.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, said, "A lot of people get infected with dengue at their offices or

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Unite to remove president, scrap 1972 constitution

Jatiya Nagorik Committee urges political parties



PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee yesterday urged political parties to unite and take to the streets to remove President Mohammed Shahabuddin and scrap the 1972 Constitution, instead of getting divided on these issues.

"Let us unite in the view of the student and public uprising and work together to remove the president," Nasiruddin Patwari, convener of the platform, said at a rally. "Leave the roundtable and come to the streets. Let's come together once again to build a second republic," he added.

A group of former student leaders, activists, lawyers, journalists, and social media influencers gathered for a discussion at the rally in the capital's Lalbagh area.

Nasiruddin said, "Shahabuddin -- who was appointed by Sheikh Hasina -- is conspiring inside Bangabhaban to destabilise the country. He can no longer remain in office."

"Political parties were standing with the students and public on August 5. But now, you have introduced the politics of division by bringing the election issue to the forefront. Stop the charade and join the call to remove the president without creating division," he added.

Akhtar Hossain, member secretary of the committee, said the president has betrayed

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A student being awarded at the prize distribution event of a book reading programme organised by the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in Bangla Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

When students grow, country will grow

Says Abdullah Abu Sayeed; Bishwo Shahitto Kendro awards readers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reading world literature is not a waste of time; rather, it enhances understanding of textbooks.

There is no alternative to reading books for personal growth, and when students grow, the nation grows.

These sentiments were expressed at the prize distribution ceremony of the book reading programme for school students organised by the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro.

The inaugural ceremony began yesterday morning at the Bangla Academy. The first day of the two-day event included a discussion programme and an awards distribution. After the discussion, the best reader awards were presented.

Each year, approximately 2,50,000 students from across the country participate in this programme.

Over the course of two days, 5,137 students from 62 educational institutions in Dhaka will be awarded in eight different phases. In the initial phase, 724 students from seven schools received books. Additionally, two students were chosen as the best readers of the year.

Speaking at the event, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, founder of the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, said, "For 46

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PUBLIC ADMIN Reform commission gets 3 more members

BSS, Dhaka

The government has reconstituted the Public Administration Reform Commission with the inclusion of three new members, raising the total number of members to 11.

The Cabinet Division issued a gazette notification to this end on Thursday.

Headed by Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, who is also serving as chairman of Biman, the commission has been formed to build a pro-people, skilled, and neutral public administration.

The three members are Prof Dr Syeda Shahina Sobhan, Firoz Ahmed, and Khondakar Mohammad Aminur Rahman.

The other members include former secretaries Dr Mohammad Tarek and Dr Mohammad Ayub Mia, and senior secretary of Public Administration Ministry Dr Md Mokhles ur Rahman.