

## Provide info on false cases Govt committee urges journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The committee formed to monitor harassment cases against journalists yesterday requested journalists implicated in false cases to submit applications to the information ministry with the required information and evidence for remedy.

A press release issued after the eight-member committee's first meeting requested that the information be submitted in PDF format to the email address – [pressl@moi.gov.bd](mailto:pressl@moi.gov.bd).

The requested details include the case's serial number, title, and the implicated journalists' names, media affiliations/addresses, case number and date, place of filing, a brief description and location of the incident, the current status of the case, the accused's status (arrested/on bail), and comments, including

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Vehicles and pedestrians move through thick dust in the capital's Kamalapur area, highlighting the city's severe air pollution. Dhaka, among the top five most polluted cities globally, suffers from poor air quality caused by traffic congestion, construction, and industrial emissions. With an Air Quality Index (AQI) that frequently falls into the most hazardous categories, city residents are faced with persistent health risks. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Navy, air force symbols of public trust: Prof Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said Bangladesh Navy and Air Force have once again been recognised as symbols of trust by the country's people.

The two forces have stood by the people at this critical juncture, he said.

He made the remarks while inaugurating the "Bangladesh Navy and Air Force Selection Board 2024" at the Air Force Headquarters in Dhaka.

The Selection Board will evaluate officers for promotion, including captains, commanders, and lieutenant commanders from the Navy, and group captains, wing commanders, and squadron leaders from the Air Force.

Yunus emphasised the need to select officers who exemplify honesty, leadership, and integrity in military service.

The chief adviser called for the promotion of officers demonstrating professional skills, discipline, trustworthiness, and loyalty.

He highlighted the role of principled leadership and directed the board to ensure promotions are awarded based on these merits.

During his speech, Yunus paid tribute to the martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War and the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement of July-August, acknowledging their sacrifices as fundamental to the nation's history.



## Muggers rule Mohammadpur alleyways

Locals passing days in fear; police, army vow strict measures

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Fearing a rise in mugging incidents, Billal Hossain, owner of a mobile repair shop near Nabinagar Housing of the capital's Mohammadpur, has resorted to closing his shop and returning home immediately after dusk.

While he used to stay open past 11:00pm earlier, for the past two months, he's been shutting down before 9:00pm, as muggers now begin to prowl the streets around 10:00pm.

"Living in constant fear has become the new normal, and it's affecting my business," he said.

Monir Hossain, an auto-rickshaw driver, described witnessing at least three mugging incidents last week on Road 7 in Nabinagar Housing.

"It was around 8:00pm, and traffic was heavy because of rain," he recalled.

"Out of nowhere, three teenagers, probably 14 to 16 years old, emerged from an alley wielding large machetes. They approached an auto-rickshaw driver and his passengers, taking their cell phones, money, and other valuables before disappearing."

"It happened right in front of me," Monir said, adding, "But I could not summon the courage to intervene."

Being terrified, Monir, who used to drive through the night, now makes sure to head home by 10:00pm. It has become a common scenario in the Mohammadpur area over the last two months.

According to DMP database, from October 1 to October 25, four murders, two robberies, and one snatching case were filed with Mohammadpur Police Station.

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**From October 1 to October 25, four murders, two robberies, and one snatching case were filed with Mohammadpur Police Station. In September, 17 murders and one snatching case were filed.**

## Bangladesh unaware of its progress on SDGs

Say speakers, suggest collecting data from non-state actors



PHOTO: STAR

Participants at the event, titled "Citizen's Participation in the National VNRs Preparation Process" yesterday. Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh organised the programme at Aloki Convention Hall in the capital.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While the average global progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 stands at 19 percent, Bangladesh is not even aware of its progress so far due to misinformation, a lack of surveys, and dependence on government data, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They also said data on only 155 out of 231 indicators of the SDG goals were available, and such absence of data remains a major concern.

The event, titled "Citizen's Participation in the National VNRs

Preparation Process', was organised by Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh at Aloki Convention Hall in the capital.

Speakers said the country is set to submit its third Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the United Nations in June, but preparations are falling behind schedule.

Bangladesh submitted its previous VNRs in 2017 and 2019.

VNR is a process through which countries analyse their progress and challenges in implementing the SDG 2030.

They urged the government to involve all sorts of non-state actors

(NSAs) like different non-government organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs), and civil society organisations (CSOs) in the process.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, convener of the organising platform, said, "The VNR should not be a government document only. Rather, it should be a national survey allowing the participation of all sorts of non-state organisations."

New opportunities have arisen following the mass uprising to fill the gaps and distortions of previous data and to evaluate the country's

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## Let court, people decide on AL's political future BNP leader Salahuddin tells event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The court and the country's people will determine whether a "terrorist" organisation like the Awami League, which is responsible for mass killings, has the right to engage in political activities or if it should be banned, said BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed at an event yesterday.

He made the remarks at a programme titled "View Exchange with the Members of Martyrs' Families," held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center organised by Jamaat-e-Islami, Dhaka city north unit.

"We do not want any political party to be banned by administrative order or simply because of individual preferences. Let the court and the people of Bangladesh decide," he said.

"If the people make a decision, then they (Awami League) will have to see if they can accept the people's verdict," Salahuddin added.

Referring to claims that the Awami League is a party with legacy, he said, "Their 'legacy' includes establishing a one-party BAKSAL rule, engaging in violence, terrorism, anarchy, and vote rigging. On October 28, 2006, they committed brutal acts on the streets using 'Logi-Boitha'. A mass resistance must be organised against such actions."

He further said, "Attempts are being made to create a constitutional crisis. If there is a crisis, we must analyse the reasons behind it. In such crises, we must ensure that ousted accomplices do not receive any opportunities."

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## MURDER CASE AGAINST HASINA

Cops asked to submit probe report by November 28

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked police to submit by November 28 the probe report of the case filed against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 23 others over the death of 18-year-old college student Foijul Islam Rajon in Mirpur on July 19.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ziadur Rahman set the date after the case was placed before his court for the next course of actions.

Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader, former law minister Anisul Huq, former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, former DB chief Harun Or Rashid, former DMP

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## OCTOBER'S DENGUE TOLL

# 114 deaths and rising

**Lack of effective action by Dhaka city corporations in identifying and eliminating Aedes mosquito clusters, and insufficient surveillance in district towns are key factors behind the outbreak.**

GM SAIFUR RAHMAN, entomologist

HELEMUL ALAM

With three days left in October, the total number of dengue deaths has reached 114, marking the highest monthly toll this year.

This October also records the second-highest death count in a month since Bangladesh's first dengue outbreak in 2000; the highest was 359 deaths in October 2023, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

This year, September saw 80 deaths, August 27, July 12, and June 8.

Till yesterday, the total dengue death toll this year stood at 277, with cases climbing to an all-time high. Experts predict that both deaths and cases will rise further, with dengue likely persisting year-round.

Experts attribute this year's high fatality rate to inadequate mosquito control, delayed hospitalisation,

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Rumana holds her five-day-old son in her arms while sitting inside a mosquito net at Mugda Medical College and Hospital yesterday. She was admitted to the hospital with dengue fever on October 20, where she gave birth to the baby boy through a C-section on Wednesday while fighting the viral disease. While the baby is in good health, the mother is yet to fully recover.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN