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## Hassan Ariff will be remembered thru his works

Say colleagues while paying tribute

BSS, Dhaka

Colleagues, friends and well-wishers of late Civil Aviation and Tourism Adviser A F Hassan Ariff paid rich tribute to his memory yesterday.



In their immediate reaction to BSS, they said the late Supreme Court lawyer will be remembered forever through his works and ideals.

The country had lost an eminent lawyer and an excellent human being at his death, they added.

They made the remarks following his Second Namaj-e-Janaza held at Bangladesh Supreme Court premises yesterday morning.

Hassan Ariff died of a cardiac arrest at the capital's Labaid Specialized Hospital yesterday at the age of 83.

Eminent Jurist and Constitution expert Dr Kamal Hossain expressed deep shock at the demise of his close friend and long-time colleague Hassan Ariff.

"We have lost an experienced lawyer and a good friend. His loss has created

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Naripokkho received the "2023 Ruby Ghuznavi Award for Social Justice" yesterday, in recognition of its long-standing work with the Biranganas, the war heroines of Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971. The award was presented at a ceremony held at the BRAC Centre in the capital.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## SOCIAL JUSTICE Naripokkho gets 2023 Ruby Ghuznavi Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women rights organisation Naripokkho received the "2023 Ruby Ghuznavi Award for Social Justice" in recognition of its long standing work with the Biranganas, the war heroines of Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971.

The award was presented at a ceremony held at the BRAC Centre in the capital yesterday, according to a media release.

The award was introduced in 2023 by the Board of the AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation to commemorate the life and work of its late chairperson Ruby Ghuznavi.

Ruby devoted a great deal of her life to public service, inspired by her two great passions -- the protection of the rights of marginalised groups and the preservation of Bangladesh's craft heritage through support for its craftspeople and traditions.

She served in a variety of organisations working on human rights, women's empowerment, and child protection and also spearheaded efforts to support the Biranganas.

The award is intended as a recognition of exceptional work by individuals and organisations that exemplify the values that Ruby Ghuznavi held dear.

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## Jamaat ameer calls for national unity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday called



for national unity and condemned the interference by India in Bangladesh's internal affairs.

"You [India] should remain in peace, and let us remain in peace. We don't want to intrude into your private matters, so please don't interfere with ours," Shafiqur said while speaking as chief guest at a Jamaat conference held at Moulvibazar Government High School grounds.

Pointing at India, he said, "You speak to us about communal harmony, but take a good look at your own reflection. How do you treat those

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# Political will key to police reform

Speakers tell CGS event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During the 15 years of Awami League rule, police promotions heavily favoured high-ranking officials close to power, leaving lower-tier officers neglected, experts said at a dialogue organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) in Dhaka yesterday.

Zarif Rahman, a member of the Police Reform Commission, presented data from the police headquarters showing disproportionate promotion rates between 2009 and 2024.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) positions saw a 200 percent increase, Additional DIG positions 491 percent, and Additional Superintendent of Police positions 332 percent.

Meanwhile, promotions for constables were just 32 percent, while sub-inspectors saw just over a 100 percent rise.

**The police have transformed into a power-centric force rather than being public-centric."**

ZARIF RAHMAN  
Police Reform Commission Member

**Public servants must not be turned into private servants of political parties.**

MUHAMMAD NURUL HUDA  
Former IGP

"These figures show how the police have transformed into a power-centric force, prioritising political interests over public service," Zarif said.

The dialogue, held at CIRDAP, was part of the CGS's 'Dialogue for Democratic Reconstruction' series.

Munira Khan, chairperson of CGS, presided over the event, while Executive Director Zillur Rahman moderated.

Speakers said that political will is key to effective police reform. Maj Gen (ret'd) ANM Muniruzzaman, chairman of the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), stressed the need for broader security sector reforms.

"Reforms will not happen without engagement from political parties. Current commissions lack sufficient consultation with political stakeholders," he said.

He also urged periodic declassification of police records and implementation of oversight mechanisms, including a

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## Beximco workers block road for 5hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Workers of 16 factories owned by Beximco blocked the Nabinagar-Chandra highway in Gazipur yesterday for five hours, demanding the reopening of the factories.

Witnesses said the demonstration started around 9:00am in the Chakraborty area on the highway to pressure their demand and continued till 2:00pm.

They said during this time workers engaged in chases and counter-chases with the joint force. The workers also vandalised several vehicles.

Shahidul Islam, sub-inspector of Naojor Highway Police Station, said traffic on both sides of the highway was halted for five hours due to a blockade.

To manage the

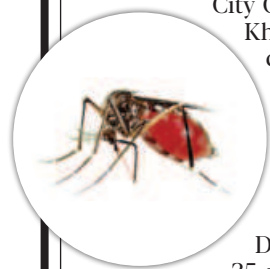
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## Three more die of dengue

UNB, Dhaka

Three more deaths were reported from dengue in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the number of fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to 561 this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), recent fatalities have been reported in various divisions of the country. One death each occurred in the Dhaka South City Corporation, Barishal Division, and Khulna Division (outside the city corporations).



During the same period, 141 additional patients were hospitalised with viral fever, the DGHS added.

Of them, 35 dengue patients were admitted to hospital under Dhaka North City Corporation while 35 were hospitalised in Dhaka South City Corporation.

As of now, 1,199 patients are receiving treatment in hospitals across the country.

Since January 1, 2024, a total of 100,029 dengue cases have been reported. Last year, dengue claimed the lives of 1,705 people, making it the deadliest year on record. According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), there were 321,179 dengue cases and 318,749 recoveries in 2023.

## ATTACK ON SUNAMGANJ HINDUS Security beefed up yet fear persists

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, back from Dowarabazar, Sunamganj

When a mob of at least a hundred locals was about to attack Minoti Rani's house on the night of December 3 at Manglargaon village in Sunamganj, she grabbed her child and ran to the riverbank, leaving her home and belongings behind.

She heard from afar the roar of the mob as they pillaged her neighbourhood. Minoti spent the entire night by the river.

"They vandalised our home and looted valuables, including the gold my parents gifted me during my marriage," Minoti added.

Her house was among at least 40 houses, one temple, two family temples, and four shops attacked that night, as per the count of this correspondent who visited the area lately.

The attack took place after local Muslims said a 21-year-old Hindu man, named Akash Das, posted an image on Facebook and it hurt their feelings, said Zahidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Dowarabazar Police Station.

Akash was detained by the police earlier that evening (December 3) and transferred to the district headquarters for his safety.

"As locals demonstrated, saying they were outraged by the Facebook post, we took the man in custody for his safety. The mob attacked our team and tried to snatch him. They then vandalised the houses of the man and several others and shops owned by Hindus," said the OC.

Akash was later shown arrested in a case filed under the Cyber Security Act and sent to jail.

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Workers at the bee farm of young entrepreneur Pavel Hossain in Madankhali union, Sreenagar, Munshiganj. Continuing a family tradition dating back to 1862, Pavel has modernised the 65-year-old business. With 130 bee boxes and a feeding system using 80 kilograms of sugar, he aims to collect 60 maunds of honey this year -- 20 maunds each from three fields. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN