



A group of women paints graffiti on the street in front of Central Shaheed Minar in preparation for International Mother Language Day. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

'Dhaka's law and order situation quite stable'  
Says DMP chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law and order situation in Dhaka remains normal, with only a few isolated incidents, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sheikh Md Sazzat Ali yesterday.

"There have been no significant crimes apart from a few isolated incidents. Overall, the law and order situation in Dhaka is quite stable," he told journalists yesterday morning while discussing the security measures at the Central Shaheed Minar on the occasion of February 21.

He mentioned one significant incident, which took place in Uttara recently and went viral on Facebook. He said all five involved individuals have been arrested. Police successfully handled the situation.

When asked if the presence of top criminals out on bail posed any security threat on February 21, the DMP chief said, "The crime or operational areas of these criminals are one thing, but the floral tributes at Shaheed Minar are entirely different. They have no interest in this... We are aware of those who are out on bail, we are tracking them, and they are already cornered."

**DEVIL HUNT**  
492 more held across the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces arrested 492 more people across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday afternoon as part of the "Operation Devil Hunt", according to the Police Headquarters.

With the latest arrests, the number of arrestees is now 6,849. Additionally, 1,260 others, who were either accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested in the last 24 hours.

Law enforcers also recovered two pipe guns and two sharp weapons.

The government launched the operation on February 8 to restore law and order following an attack on "students and people" in Gazipur.

Analysing reports from some districts, this newspaper found that many of the arrestees are members of the Awami League and its associate bodies. Many are accused in cases filed after the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5.

## RISE IN CULEX POPULATION

# Mosquito menace continues

HELEMUL ALAM

Despite a drop in dengue cases due to the winter chill, city dwellers continue to suffer from an alarming rise in mosquito infestations, with authorities failing to take effective measures to control the surge in Culex mosquitoes.

Experts warn that without immediate intervention, the Culex mosquito population will keep increasing until March.

They also stressed the importance of targeting Aedes mosquitoes during this period by identifying dengue-positive households and launching pre-emptive mosquito control drives.

Residents across the capital are struggling to cope with the mosquito menace.

Saiful Alam, a resident of Mirpur-12, said it has become nearly impossible to sleep at night without a mosquito net or repellent. "I often have to use mosquito repellent even during the day just to protect myself," he added.

Sabak Sabris Sami, an HSC candidate from East Shewrapara, said, "Mosquito numbers have increased dramatically recently. We have not seen any anti-mosquito drives in our area for

### ISSUES

- ② Residents struggling due to mosquito infestation
- ② No visible anti-mosquito drives in many areas
- ② Mild winter contributing to increased mosquito numbers
- ② Authorities criticised for lack of proactive measures
- ② Aedes mosquito hotspots remain unidentified



weeks."

Md. Kamal, a resident of Dhaka Nagar Lane in Gazipur, echoed him.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar said,

"Cleaning drains and waterbodies and applying larvicide simultaneously is the key to controlling mosquitoes. However,

simply applying larvicide without cleaning the drains will not yield results."

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman said, "There is no specific body to take effective measures against mosquitoes. If we can eliminate breeding sites such as canals, stagnant waterbodies, and lakes, we can solve 70 percent of the problem."

He said last year's failure to control Aedes mosquitoes resulted

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- ② Clean drains, waterbodies before applying larvicide
- ② Identify, eliminate mosquito breeding sites
- ② Set up dedicated mosquito control authority
- ② Improve surveillance to locate mosquito hotspots
- ② Continue anti-mosquito drives in critical areas

in a nationwide dengue outbreak. "If the authorities locate and destroy Aedes mosquito breeding clusters now, it will be much easier to control their population during the peak season," he said.

Meanwhile, entomologist Monzur A Chowdhury highlighted the importance of tackling Aedes mosquitoes during the winter lull.

"The number of Aedes mosquitoes has decreased due to the cold weather. This is the perfect time to identify dengue-affected households and conduct extensive anti-mosquito drives around them to eliminate breeding sources and adult mosquitoes," he said.

DNCC Chief Health Officer Brig General Imru-al-Quais, speaking at a programme at Nagar Bhaban, said apart from their regular anti-mosquito drives, they have their own surveillance system to control Aedes mosquitoes.

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# 'Judges should disclose wealth every 3 years'

Recommends Judiciary Reform Commission

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Judiciary Reform Commission has proposed 11 recommendations, including a provision requiring judges of the Supreme Court, lower courts, and their officials to mandatorily disclose their wealth statements every three years to ensure transparency and prevent corruption in the judiciary.

The commission handed over its 351-page final report to the chief adviser on February 5.

The reform body, led by Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, recommended that the property details of supporting officers and employees of the SC and subordinate courts be published on the websites of the SC and district courts every three years.

It proposed the installation of complaint boxes at the SC against its judges to the Supreme Judicial Council. It also recommended providing dedicated email addresses for the public to file complaints electronically.

Additionally, the commission suggested forming a three-member primary committee, consisting of SC judges, to investigate corruption allegations against judges in subordinate courts.

It has suggested similar complaint

boxes and e-mail addresses for officers and employees of all the courts.

The committee will examine the received allegations every three months and take a decision in this regard.

It also advised introducing a grievance redress system to prevent corruption in the judiciary.

### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ② Set up complaint boxes at SC
- ② Provide email addresses for complaints
- ② Establish grievance redress system
- ② Improve accountability
- ② Create court information centres
- ② Display citizen charters

The reform commission identified several factors contributing to corruption and irregularities in the judiciary. They include a lack of accountability among judges, lawyers, court staff, legal assistants, police, and investigation officers.

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# BDR MASSACRE Commission records 37 testimonies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Independent Investigation Commission, formed to re-investigate the 2009 BDR massacre, has so far recorded the testimonies of 37 individuals in 41 working days since December 24, regarding the incident.

Among the 37 individuals who have testified so far, there are three lieutenant generals, two major generals, five brigadier generals, four colonels, four lieutenant colonels, seven majors, two captains, seven BDR members, and three victims' family members.

**The commission has already sent letters to the foreign ministry to establish communication with certain foreign embassies to reach former army chief general (retired) Moeen U Ahmed, ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and others residing abroad.**

Maj Gen (retd) ALM Fazlur Rahman, the commission chief and former director general of the then-BDR (now BGB), shared the developments at a press conference at the BRTC building in the capital's Science Laboratory yesterday.

He said former army chief general (retired) Moeen U Ahmed is crucial for obtaining detailed information about the incident.

The commission has already sent letters to the foreign ministry to establish communication with certain foreign embassies to reach Moeen, ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and others residing abroad, he said.

Fazlur said, "I cannot reveal the names of those embassies being contacted to bring back fugitives."

When asked about Moeen, who is now based in Florida in the US and has shared his version of

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## Secretariat entry policy formulated

BSS, Dhaka

The government has formulated "Bangladesh Secretariat Entry Policy, 2025" aimed at checking entry of unwanted persons and controlling vehicles into the secretariat to ensure a congenial atmosphere for work.

"In line with the current world, the Bangladesh Secretariat Entry Policy, 2025" was issued after discussions with the stakeholders in the perspective of the changing situation," said a notification of the home ministry signed by its Senior Secretary Nasimul Ghani.

In accordance with the "Bangladesh Secretariat Entry Policy, 2014", the government formulated the policy in the interest of maintaining security and discipline, it said.

The home adviser has requested all concerned to follow this policy properly to provide overall security to the Bangladesh Secretariat.



A group of students browse books at the Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday. They ventured into the fair after finishing classes and were excited to finally have time to pick up a few books. As the Boi Mela draws to a close, with February 28 being the last day, more and more people have begun flocking to Suhrawardy Udyan.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN