



People gather in front of the BNP's central office in Nayapaltan to take part in the party's Labour Day rally on Thursday. Key BNP policymakers addressed the event where thousands joined from factories in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Narsingdi, Tangail, Manikganj, and Munshiganj.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

LABOUR RIGHTS  
Star journo  
wins DIFE's  
best reporting  
award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Jamil Khan, head of the crime desk at The Daily Star, won the best reporting award in print media category in a competition held by the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) for his report on labour rights. Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus presented the award at an event held on Thursday at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre, marking the historic May Day and National Occupational Health and Safety Day 2025. Jamil secured first place in the print media category, while Kutub Uddin Mohammad Jasim of The Business Standard and Munira Munni of The Financial Express won second and third places respectively. The award was introduced by DIFE to recognise excellence in labour reporting. Labour and Employment Secretary AHM Shafiquzzaman chaired the event, while Labour and Employment Adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) Dr M Sakhawath Hussain, Labour Reform Commission Chairman

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# Rain sparks fresh fear of dengue surge

Cases rise; preventive steps still lacking, say experts

HELEMUL ALAM

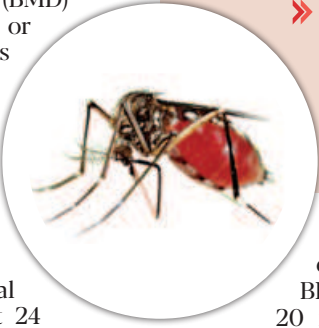
As the rainy season begins to set in, the risk of a surge in dengue cases is rising rapidly, with authorities yet to take adequate preventive measures across the country. According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 20 people have died from dengue so far this year, while 2,586 others have been hospitalised as of Friday morning. Of the deaths, 10 occurred in January, three in February, and seven in April. In terms of hospitalisations, 1,161 cases were reported in January, 374 in February, 336 in March, 701 in April, and 39 till the second day of May. The Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) has forecast rain or thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and temporary gusty winds in parts of Chattogram, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, and Barishal divisions in the next 24 hours starting from 9:00am yesterday. Entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University expressed concern over the results of their ongoing surveys, noting a sharp rise in the Breteau Index (BI), a measure of Aedes mosquito density. "This year, we're already seeing BI values over 10 in April, compared to less than 10 on average last

## DENGUE DEATHS and HOSPITALISATIONS 2025 (AS OF MAY 2)

Month	Deaths	Hospitalisations
Jan	10	1,161
Feb	3	374
Mar	0	336
Apr	7	701
May (2nd)	0	39
TOTAL	20	2,586

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Nationwide mosquito control drives
- » Daily vector surveillance
- » Specialised dengue response unit
- » Public awareness through campaigns
- » Coordination among city corporations, health depts



year. If this trend continues, the BI could exceed 20 in June, which is alarming," he said. Prof Bashar emphasised the urgent need for the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD) to issue directives to its departments to control the spread of Aedes mosquitoes. "Breeding source management and larvae control should be the top priorities now. Both the authorities and city residents must ensure there is no stagnant water in containers, construction sites, or other areas," he added. Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman echoed similar concerns, warning that continued rain and thunderstorms in the coming months will further heighten dengue risks. "Comprehensive and timely interventions are critical. Unfortunately, we haven't seen sufficient action yet," he said. Rahman urged the government to establish dedicated mosquito

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# Ensure safety, dignity for women workers

Seven organisations urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking International Labour Day, seven organisations working on women's rights yesterday urged the government to ensure protection and dignity for women workers. In a media release, the organisations stated that although women's contribution to national economic development is recognised, they continue to face violence and discrimination in workplace environments. They called for urgent and visible action from the government in this regard. The organisations are Nari Unnayan Shakti, Young Women for Development Rights and Climate, Bangladeshi Ovhibashi Mohila Sramik Association, Forum for Culture and Human Development, Association of Voluntary Actions for Society, and Love Thy Neighbour. They highlighted that both domestic and migrant women workers continue to face sexual harassment, insecurity, and labour discrimination on a regular basis, terming the situation a "serious state-level crisis". The organisations made separate demands to the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment to uphold the rights of female workers both at home and abroad.

Their demands to the Labour and Employment Ministry include making it mandatory to formulate "self-guidelines" and establish "complaint committees" at every workplace. They also urged the labour ministry to ensure gender equality in wages, promotions, and leave policies; ensure safe resting rooms,

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Equality in wages, promotions, leave policies
- » Safe resting rooms, hygienic toilets, maternity benefits
- » Daycare centres at workplaces
- » Special cell under labour ministry
- » Safety, rights training for women migrants
- » Women support desks at all missions abroad

hygienic toilets, and maternity benefits for women workers; appoint welfare officers in garment and other factories; and establish daycare centres at workplaces with 50 or more female employees. In addition, they demanded the creation of a "Women Worker Protection and

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Return power to people, not the state

Says Farhad Mazhar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Columnist and poet Farhad Mazhar yesterday said a new Bangladesh under a new constitution must be founded on three fundamental principles. The first principle, he stated, is that the state cannot enact any law that undermines an individual's rights and dignity. The second principle is that the state cannot adopt any law or policy that harms life, the environment, or nature, he said. Thirdly, he emphasised that the state must not formulate any law or policy that endangers the lives and livelihoods of its citizens. He made the remarks while speaking at a discussion with journalists at the Bogura Press Club. "If we can establish these three principles, and if political parties launch movements based on them today, it wouldn't take more than six months to change Bangladesh...", said Farhad Mazhar. "The power of the people must be returned to the people...", he also said. Mazhar explained that the message of the mass uprising is to return sovereign power to the people and to establish a decentralised system

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# Vegetable prices see sharp rise in capital's markets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of most vegetables, except for potatoes, have increased by Tk 5 to Tk 15 per kilogramme over the past week in the capital's kitchen markets. A kilogramme of green papaya was sold at Tk 80 yesterday, up from Tk 70 a week earlier. Eggplants, pointed gourds, spiny gourds, okra, bulbous roots, long beans, and ridge gourds were selling for Tk 70 to Tk 120 per kg, showing an increase of about Tk 10 per kg. The price of tomatoes also rose by Tk 10 per kg within a week. Meanwhile, onion prices reached Tk 55 to Tk 60 per kg, up from Tk 40 to Tk 45 about a couple of weeks ago. However, potato prices remained unchanged, with five to six kilogrammes being sold at Tk 100 in different kitchen markets yesterday. Irfan Hossain Nayeem, a private jobholder, visited the Ibrahimpur kitchen market in Kafrul yesterday to buy vegetables. Speaking to this correspondent, Irfan said he could not find any vegetable item priced below Tk 80 per kg, except for potatoes and tomatoes. "Now, it seems the interim government is unable to control vegetable prices, even though it was praised for keeping the prices of vegetables low during Ramadan and the entire winter season," he added. Nayeem said he had to buy fewer vegetables due to the high prices. Md Ismail Hossain, a vendor who sells vegetables from a rickshaw van in East Shewrapara, said prices have been increasing over the last seven to eight days. He said he buys vegetables from the Mirpur-1 wholesale market and sells them at retail in Shewrapara. "Now, as prices go up, many of my regular customers even try to bargain, as they are uncomfortable with the price hike," he said. Saifur Rahman Chowdhury Sujan, general

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# One killed, two injured in Banani road accident

STAR REPORT

A man was killed and two others injured after a car hit a rickshaw van on the Airport Road in Dhaka's Banani area around midnight yesterday. The deceased was identified as Hanif, 45, a van passenger, confirmed Jane Alam, duty officer of Banani Police Station. The incident took place near the Maasranga Television office around 12:30am, he said. The injured were first taken to Kurmitola General Hospital and later transferred to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), the police officer said. According to the duty officer, the car driver sped up after hitting the rickshaw van. Following the accident, a Facebook user shared a video claiming that a black Toyota was responsible for hitting the three victims and fleeing the scene. Police are investigating the incident to find out the reason behind the accident.



Guests at the inaugural ceremony of the BSRM School of Engineering at BRAC University's Merul Badda campus on April 30.

PHOTO: COURTESY

# Redefining engineering education

BRAC University, BSRM inaugurate BSRM School of Engineering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BRAC University and the BSRM Group of Companies inaugurated the BSRM School of Engineering through a ceremony at the university's Merul Badda campus on April 30, alongside its theme "Shaping Tomorrow: Innovation for Sustainability", official logo, and website. This first-of-a-kind collaboration between academia and industry is aimed at redefining engineering education in Bangladesh. The collaboration is set to embed innovation, ethics, and societal responsibility at its very core, preparing a new generation of engineers to build a future that is inclusive, sustainable, and humane. Such academia-industry partnerships are very common in the West as well as in other parts of the world. These practices

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