

# DHAKA

## AFTABNAGAR FIRE Four of 5 burn victims die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A child, who was injured in a fire in Dhaka's Aftabnagar, died yesterday, bringing the death toll to four out of the five members of the same family who were burnt in the incident.

Mithila Akter, 7, succumbed to her injuries around 8:30pm at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, said Dr Shawon Bin Rahman, residential surgeon at the institute.

"She had sustained 60 percent burns along with critical injuries to her airways. She was being treated in the High Dependency Unit [HDU], where she died," he said.

Earlier, her father Tofazzal Hossain, 32, mother Mansura Akter, 28, and younger sister Tanzila Akter, 4, died from their injuries.

The couple's eldest daughter, Tanisha, 11, is still undergoing treatment with 30 percent burns. Her condition is also critical, Dr Rahman added.

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## RU renames 12 structures

A section of students slams the move

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University (RU) administration has renamed at least 12 structures and buildings on campus.

The decision was made during the university's 539th syndicate meeting held on May 22, confirmed acting registrar Iftikhar Alam Masud.

However, the move has drawn criticism, as a section of students has claimed that most of the changes were unnecessary and politically motivated.

As per the changes, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall has been renamed Bijoy 24 Hall, while Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall is now July 36 Hall.

The Syed Nazrul Administration Building has been renamed Administration Building 1, and Syed Mansur Ali Administration Building is now Administration Building 2.

In addition, the Tajuddin Ahmad Senate Building is now the Senate Building, Sheikh Kamal Stadium is Rajshahi University Stadium, Dr Kudrat-e-Khuda Academic Building has been renamed Jabir Ibn Hayyan Building, and Dr Wazed Miah Academic Building is now Jamal Nazrul Building.

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A man on crutches crosses a makeshift bridge placed over the Kajla Canal. The crossing is dangerous for everyone, but especially so for someone using crutches, and an accident could occur at any moment. The photo was taken in the capital's Jatrabari area yesterday.

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## Rain spurs fear of dengue surge

Experts warn of potential outbreak if immediate measures not taken

HELEMUL ALAM

With the monsoon rains arriving early this year, the number of dengue cases is increasing rapidly, raising concerns about a potential outbreak in the coming months.

Experts have warned that if immediate preventive measures are not taken, the number of dengue patients may surpass last year's total of 1,01,214 cases, which resulted in 575 deaths.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), as of yesterday morning, the total number of dengue cases reported this year has reached 3,767, with 23 deaths. In April alone, there were 701 cases, and 1,195 cases were reported in the first 23 days of May – indicating a clear upward trend.

Entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said the population of Aedes mosquitoes is increasing across the country and is likely to continue rising in the coming months.

"The dengue situation may become worse than last year if urgent action, particularly breeding source reduction activities, is not undertaken immediately," he said.

Bashar emphasised the critical role of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD) in issuing immediate directives

to combat the spread of Aedes mosquitoes.

"Breeding source management and larvae control must be top priorities. Authorities and residents alike must ensure there is no stagnant water in containers, construction sites, or other locations," he added.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman echoed these concerns, stating that the current rainfall pattern is conducive to Aedes breeding.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Act now to prevent outbreak
- Eliminate stagnant water
- Identify, destroy Aedes hotspots
- Issue urgent directives
- Make dengue a reportable disease



"Like last year, there is no active national control programme in place. Without immediate intervention, the disease will likely spread to new areas," he warned.

Rahman also highlighted the need for making dengue a reportable disease in Bangladesh, which would ensure proper data collection and a more effective response.

"A large number of cases remain

tubs, discarded tyres, under-construction buildings, bird water containers, stagnant water areas, cattle troughs, leaking pipes, and flooded floors in construction sites.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, said they are currently seeing a low number of dengue patients, but

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## Hefazat calls for unity, patience

Demands Women's Affairs Reform Commission's report be scrapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hefazat-e-Islam yesterday urged all parties involved in the July uprising to set aside internal disputes, exercise patience, and unite to resist conspiracies against the state and help move the country forward.

"Many mothers have lost their children. Their tears have not dried. The blood of the martyrs is still fresh. It is not right for us to engage in a power struggle," he said.

"You cannot let your emotions and grievances fade the dreams of 18 crore people," said Hefazat Joint Secretary General Mamunul Haque during a protest programme. He mentioned BNP, Jamaat, student leaders, and stakeholders of the interim government.

Over a thousand Hefazat leaders and activists staged a protest in front of Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Juma

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Abul Hayat is presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Dilara Zaman at the Meril-Prothom Alo Awards yesterday. Also on stage were actor Afzal Hossain and Anjan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Toiletries Ltd.

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## Prices of eggs, spices go up Vegetable, chicken markets stable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While prices of summer vegetables and broiler chicken remained stable in Dhaka's kitchen markets over the past week, the cost of beef, eggs, and several spices saw an up tick.

During visits to several wholesale and retail markets -- including Karwan Bazar, Farmgate, Ibrahimpur, Shewrapara, and Kazipara -- traders and consumers said ample supply has helped keep the prices of most vegetables in check.

Summer produce such as eggplants, gourds, pointed gourds, okra, long beans, tomatoes, bitter gourds, and ridge gourds were selling for Tk 30-70 per kg. Onion was priced at Tk 50-60 per kg, while potatoes were available at Tk 20-22 per kg.

Saifur Rahman Chowdhury Sujan, general secretary of the Karwan Bazar Brihattar Paikari Kacha Bazar Arot Byabasayi Malik Samity, said, "The supply of vegetables is currently greater compared to the demand, contributing to the recent fall in prices."

Abu Raihan, a resident of Tejkunipara who was shopping for vegetables and groceries at Karwan Bazar yesterday, said vegetable prices have remained stable over the past few weeks. However, the prices of other essentials such as soybean oil, eggs, and certain spices have been on the rise.

He called for stricter market monitoring to keep prices in check.

The prices of sugar and lentils have also dropped slightly. Md Gofran, proprietor of Cumilla General Store, said sugar prices declined from Tk 120 to Tk 115 per kg, and local lentils are now selling for Tk 130 per kg, down from Tk 140 two weeks ago. Soybean oil prices, however, remained unchanged after a previous hike.

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## RECRUITMENT AT JNU Committee formed to probe 15 years of corruption

JNU CORRESPONDENT



Jagannath University (JNU) has formed an investigation committee to probe allegations of irregularities and corruption in the recruitment and promotion of teachers, officers, and staff from 2009 to August 2024.

Alongside this, a public notice has been issued seeking information and evidence related to such misconduct during the period.

According to a notice signed by Mohammad Moshiur Islam, deputy registrar (Administration I) and issued on Thursday, individuals with information on recruitment or promotion irregularities during the specified time frame have been requested to submit written complaints by June 30.

The complaints must be submitted in sealed envelopes, and the identities of informer will be kept confidential, according to the notice.

Prof Md Rais Uddin, the convener of the committee and general secretary of the teachers' association, said, "Over the past 15 years, many individuals have allegedly secured appointments and promotions through irregular and corrupt practices. Although complaints were made in the past, previous administrations did not take effective action. The current administration has taken a bold step to investigate these matters. Action will be taken against those found guilty after proper investigation."

## Meril-Prothom Alo Awards 2024 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 26th edition of the Meril-Prothom Alo Awards was held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Agargaon yesterday. The annual event celebrates the past year's finest film, television, and OTT projects.

The programme kicked off at 6:00pm with a red-carpet reception that welcomed icons like Afzal Hossain, Dilara Zaman, Bidya Sinha Mim, Tasnia Farin, and Mehazabien Chowdhury, alongside numerous other actors, directors, and cultural personalities. The event was hosted by Afran Nisho and Tasnia Farin.

The opening performance featured a group dance by Mondera Chakraborty, Ridu Sheikh, and Tama Mirza, before officially starting with a welcome speech from Anisul Hoque, managing editor of Prothom Alo, followed by remarks from Malik Mohammed Sayeed, CEO of Square Toiletries Ltd, the event's long-standing partner.

The night's highlight was the Lifetime Achievement Award presented to veteran actor Abul Hayat. A moving documentary paid tribute to his career that has spanned across decades. Actress Dilara Zaman presented the award, while Anjan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Toiletries Ltd, honoured him with

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