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## BNP to consider China's Teesta offer if elected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP would consider China's proposal on the Teesta issue positively if it came to power through elections, said party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

"We explained our needs and requirements regarding this project, and they responded positively -- they are working on it," Fakhrul told reporters at a briefing at the BNP chairperson's office following a five-day tour of China.

A high level nine member BNP delegation, led by Fakhrul, went to China on June 22 at the invitation of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The BNP delegation held meetings with senior CPC leaders and discussed bilateral issues and ways to strengthen ties between the CPC and the BNP.

China has expressed its willingness to work with Bangladesh's next elected government "with even greater sincerity, steadfastness, love and affection," he said.

The BNP delegation also urged China to play a more effective role in ensuring the safe, voluntary and dignified return of Rohingya refugees to their homeland in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

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## 3 FOUND DEAD IN HOTEL

## Police suspect foul play, await autopsy results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police suspect foul play in the deaths of a couple and their son, whose bodies were found at a hotel in Dhaka's Moghbazar on Sunday.

"Initial findings and doctors' observations suggest that poison caused their deaths. But we need to determine whether it was food poisoning or if someone deliberately mixed poison into their food," Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division, told The Daily Star yesterday.

A murder case will be filed and further investigation and viscera report will reveal what actually happened, the DC said.

Zakia Tasnim, a doctor at the forensic medicine department at Dhaka Medical College, who performed the postmortem, said, "Police mentioned that the death might be caused by food poisoning, and initial symptoms are making us think the same. Blood and viscera has been collected from the bodies and been sent for further tests. Once we have those reports, we will know the actual reason behind the deaths."

Talking to The Daily Star, a police official said they suspect "foul play" in the deaths, as no other complaints have

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## DU's 104th founding anniv today

DU CORRESPONDENT



Today marks the 104th founding anniversary of Dhaka University.

To commemorate the day, the university will hold colourful processions and discussions on campus.

According to the DU Public Relations Office, teachers, students, officials, and staff will gather at Smriti Chirantan Chatter around 9:30am and join a rally led by VC Prof Md Niaz Ahmed Khan around 9:45am.

At 10:00am, the national flag, university flag, and hall flags will be hoisted, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony in front of the Teacher-Student Centre.

A discussion titled "Dhaka University in Building an Equitable and Inclusive Society" will be held at 10:30am at the TSC auditorium, where UGC Chairman Prof SMA Faiz

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## Dengue cases cross 10,000 mark this year

DGHS sending team to tackle situation in Barguna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 429 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours until yesterday morning, a single day record for this year, as the total number of dengue cases crossed 10,000.

Currently, 1,167 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals, including 853 from outside Dhaka, according to the DGHS. The total number of deaths so far this year is 42 while the caseload rose to 10,296.

Experts have warned that immediate action is needed nationwide, particularly outside the capital, to control the spread of Aedes mosquitoes that transmit the disease.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar said the government must prioritise eliminating mosquito breeding sources instead of focusing on fogging. Bashar recommended using Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs), which remain effective for up to three months.

"These should be used along with larvicides. In places where chemicals aren't needed, people must clean and overturn water containers to stop breeding."

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A street vendor selling surgical and face masks in the capital's Mohammadpur area. With Covid-19 cases on the rise, face masks are regaining popularity as a precautionary measure. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Years of neglect haunt JU Medical Centre

Budget constraint, staff shortage cripple services

SAKIB AHMED



Budget remains stagnant at Tk 45 lakh

No new doctor recruited since 2005

9 doctors for over 12,500 students

Medical Centre lacks specialists, assistants, support staff

medical facilities at the JU Medical Centre -- providing substandard facilities, lacking basic emergency preparedness, and failing to address urgent needs.

According to documents obtained by this correspondent, the centre's budget allocations have failed to keep up with the growing demands of the university's student population and rising medical costs.

Between 2022-23 and 2025-26 fiscal years, the overall budget for healthcare facilities has remained stagnant at Tk 45 lakh.

In FY 2020-21, the centre received a mere Tk 14.78 lakh for purchasing medicine and dressing equipment. Although the allocation rose to Tk 30.48 lakh during the pandemic in FY 2021-22, it dropped again to Tk 24 lakh in FY 2022-23 and remained so till FY 2024-25, even as prices of essential medicines rose by 30-40 percent meanwhile.

Similarly, allocations for pathology kits have remained unchanged at Tk 21 lakh since

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Abul Mansur Ahmad speech competition announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second Abdul Mansur Ahmad National Speech Competition has been announced by Abdul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad and Tarkaala to honour the legacy of the renowned journalist, politician and litterateur.

This year, the contest invites participants to address the theme, "Bangladesh's Culture in the Post Uprising Era," organisers said.

To participate,

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## CUMILLA RAPE

## Ensure justice and support for victim

Demand 38 eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-eight eminent citizens have condemned the recent incident of rape and physical assault of a woman in Cumilla's Muradnagar, and demanded a thorough investigation along with exemplary punishment for the perpetrators.

In a statement issued to the media yesterday, the signatories expressed their outrage over the incident and called for ensuring the safety and psychosocial support of the survivor and her family.

The statement denounced not only the act of rape and assault but also the inhumane act of recording and circulating a video of the survivor online. The signatories demanded swift legal action against all those involved in the assault, video recording, and its dissemination.

Criticising several media outlets for publishing images of the survivor, the statement pointed out that such actions not only violate privacy laws but also endanger the woman's safety and dignity.

The signatories urged the media to act more responsibly while reporting on such sensitive matters.

Among the signatories were: Sultana Kamal, Khushi Kabir, Iftekharuzzaman, Sara Hossain, Rasheda K Choudhury, Shireen Huq, Shaheen Anam, Sumaiya Khai, Zi Khan Panna, Shahidul Alam, Gitiara Nasreen, Shamsul Huda, Subrata Chowdhury, Shahnaz Huda, Robayet Ferdous, Nur Khan Liton, Monindra Kumar Nath, Faustina Pereira, Rahnuma Ahmed, Farzana Wahid Shayan, and Rezaur Rahman Lenin.

## Form JS upper house based on proportional representation Urge 60 eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty eminent citizens yesterday urged political parties to reach a consensus on forming the proposed upper house of the Jatiya Sangsad through a proportional representation (PR) system.

In a statement sent to the media, they said if the upper house is constituted based on party seats in the lower house, it will not bring any qualitative changes in the state operations.

On the other hand, if upper house members are elected proportionately based on the total votes received by political parties in the lower house election, then the new upper house will be able to play a vital role in ensuring "checks and balances" and government accountability, it added.

The signatories include economists, teachers, lawyers, rights activists, engineers, physicians, entrepreneurs, organisers, researchers, and authors.

In the statement, they said the country's political parties have already reached a consensus on forming a 100-seat upper house in parliament.

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## JnU allocates Tk 56cr as housing allowances

Okays Tk 297.82cr budget for FY 2025-26

OUR CORRESPONDENT, JnU



Jagannath University has approved a Tk 297.82 crore budget for 2025-26.

The budget was approved yesterday during the university's 102nd (special) Syndicate meeting, presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Md Rezaul Karim.

Of the budget, Tk 56 crore (18.80 percent) has been earmarked for supplementary scholarship category, intended primarily as housing allowances for students, Tk 128.60 crore for salaries and allowances, Tk 84.31 crore for goods and services, Tk 58.21 crore for miscellaneous grants, Tk 8.03 crore for research, Tk 4.92 crore for equipment, Tk 3 crore for transportation, Tk 1.70 crore for ICT, Tk 80 lakh for other capital expenditures, and Tk 25 lakh for primary healthcare.

"Tk 56 crore has been allocated for supplementary student grants, and Tk 24.90 crore has been kept for temporary hall construction," said the VC.



As dark clouds roll in over Khulna's Batiaghata, workers at a rice mill rush to gather the Boro paddy they had laid out to dry earlier under the scorching sun. Fearing the grain might be spoiled by sudden rain, they work quickly to cover and protect the harvest. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN