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Take steps to set up solar panels on rooftops: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to prepare and implement a time-bound action plan for installation of adequate and functional solar panels on the rooftops of every building in Dhaka to meet the reduction targets of greenhouse gas emission.

The ministry of power, energy and mineral resources; Rajuk and Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) have been asked to comply with this directive.

The authorities have been ordered to submit a compliance report in six months.

The HC bench of Justice Md Akram Hossain Chowdhury and Justice Foyej Ahmed issued the order and a rule following a petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA).



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.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

3 FOUND DEAD IN CITY 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 been received from customers of the restaurant that supplied the food to the three.

Police are questioning a distant uncle of Monir, who is the caretaker of the victims' house in Keraniganj, as

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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 Chattar 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

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Govt wants to hire students for part-time jobs: Asif

BSS, Dhaka

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives and Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud has said the government wants to appoint students in part-time jobs in its different offices.

He made the remark in a post on his verified Facebook account.

"We want to appoint students in part-time jobs in various government offices. Some positions in various offices do not require full-time permanent employment," Asif said.

Part-time appointments will help the government cut its expenses and will also bring financial solvency to the students, he said.

Years of neglect haunt JU Medical Centre

Budget constraint, staff shortage cripple services

SAKIB AHMED

On Sunday, June 22, Zubayer Hossain, a third-year student of Anthropology department at Jahangirnagar University, died reportedly after being denied timely ambulance support. He had long suffered from haemophilia.

Earlier, on November 20 last year, Afsana Rachii, a first-year student of JU's Marketing department, died after being hit by a battery-run rickshaw on the campus and allegedly denied proper treatment at the JU Medical Centre.

The tragedies further exposed the dire condition of JU's medical support system, which has long been plagued by myriads of limitations such as negligence, budget constraint, and an acute shortage of manpower.

Students have long been complaining about inadequate medical facilities at the JU Medical

Centre -- providing substandard facilities, lacking basic emergency preparedness, and failing to address urgent needs.



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

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 FY2022-23, despite a sharp increase in reagent prices due to import costs and rising dollar rates.

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Abul Mansur Ahmad speech competition announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second Abul Mansur Ahmad National Speech Competition has been announced by Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad and Tarkajal 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, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Form the 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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Training for doctors to tackle Barguna dengue spike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate General of Health Services is sending a team of medicine specialists to train local doctors in Barguna on managing dengue patients more effectively amid a sharp rise in dengue cases and deaths in the district.

Two ambulances are also being dispatched to the district, while local authorities have been instructed to raise awareness about the importance of early hospital admission for dengue patients.

The DGHS issued separate letters in this regard, signed by its director (hospital) Abu Hussain Md Moinul Ahsan, yesterday.

According to DGHS data, 77 new dengue patients were hospitalised in Barguna on Sunday, raising the total number of admitted patients across the district to 222.

Since January 1, a total of 2,746 dengue cases has been recorded in Barguna -- the highest for any single district this year -- while six people have died.

In view of the situation, the DGHS

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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

Bangladeshi-origin neurologist to lead UK's Parkinson's research centre

STAR REPORT

Bangladeshi-origin neurologist Miratul Muqit has been appointed as the inaugural director of the United Kingdom's National

Parkinson's Research Centre, a flagship initiative under the UK Dementia Research Institute.

Currently, he is serving as a professor of experimental neurology and a consultant neurologist at the University of Dundee in Scotland.

Hailing from Sylhet's Habiganj, Muqit's parents, who migrated from Bangladesh to the UK in the 1960s, both served in the National Health Service.

Muqit studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh. He subsequently won a Kennedy Scholarship to attend Harvard University, before completing PhD studies at University College London.

He then received an FRCP from London.

Muqit is also one of very few Bangladeshis to be elected Fellow of

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Miratul Muqit