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Two women light candles on the grave of a deceased family member at the Baptist Church Cemetery on Band Road in Barishal yesterday, marking All Souls' Day. Members of the Christian community observe the day by offering prayers, lighting candles, and placing flowers on the graves of their loved ones.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Misinformation glut a threat to polls integrity

Says study by Digitally Right

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As Bangladesh prepares for its 2026 parliamentary election, the country faces an unprecedented threat to electoral credibility and inclusive participation due to a barrage of misinformation and hate-driven campaigns, revealed a new study.

Digitally Right, a Dhaka-based digital rights and information research organisation, published the study, titled "Tackling Election Disinformation in Bangladesh: Building Collective Responses for Electoral Integrity", yesterday.

The study was published with support from The Asia Foundation under the Promoting Effective, Responsive, and Inclusive Governance in Bangladesh programme, funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Findings from the study were shared at an event held in Gulshan, attended by representatives from the media, fact-checking organisations, election observers, academics, and civil society.

The report found that Bangladesh's online information environment has become increasingly fragile and fragmented.

Political parties, religious groups, and foreign and diaspora-based influencers

Govt may not survive if BNP takes to streets

Says Gayeshwar over July charter issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee Member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy yesterday said the interim government might not survive if the party launches protests over disputes surrounding the July National Charter and its implementation recommendations.

"We want a free and fair election. If we take to the streets, there is doubt about the government's survival. And if the government falls, the election will become uncertain. So, we are not protesting as we could have," he said.

Gayeshwar made these remarks while talking to journalists after placing

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## 5 more die of dengue, 1,162 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 1,162 new dengue patients reported yesterday, the total number of cases this year has risen to 71,675. That is 8,510 more than the same period last year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, five new dengue-related deaths were recorded yesterday, raising the total death toll for the year to 283, compared to 310 at the same time last year.



Against this backdrop, Dhaka North City Corporation Administrator Mohammad Azaz said yesterday that recent data analysis shows a decline in both dengue cases and deaths in DNCC areas compared to previous years.

"However, even a single death from dengue is unacceptable to us. Despite limited manpower, we are striving to

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## Progress but not at cost of nature: Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday underscored the importance of integrated and balanced development of the country's roads, railways, airways, and waterways.

Such progress, however, should not come at the expense of nature, the environment, or rivers, he said at an inter-ministerial meeting on the Central

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