

## TIB warns against black money amnesty

Says reported budget move would normalise corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed deep concern over media reports that the government is considering reintroducing a provision to legalise black money in the FY2026-27 budget through an “unconditional amnesty” that would prevent scrutiny by authorities.

The anti-corruption watchdog said the move, reportedly aimed at revitalising the housing sector, encouraging industrial investment, and accelerating economic growth would effectively normalise corruption and irregularities under state patronage. It called for the permanent abolition of the provision.

In a statement yesterday, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said successive governments since independence had retained mechanisms for legalising “undisclosed income” in violation of Article 20(2) of the Constitution.

According to him, the practice expanded under the previous authoritarian regime through provisions that allowed legalisation of

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Several babuis fly around their intricately woven nest at Dumuria Madhabkathi village in Khulna. Once common in rural Bengal, the birds are now becoming scarce amid shrinking habitats and excessive pesticide use. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## CLOSED FACTORIES Govt to hold roadshows to attract investment

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to organise roadshows soon to attract local and foreign investment in closed and unprofitable state-owned factories as part of its efforts to revive idle industrial units and improve their performance.

The decision was taken at a meeting on the operation and management of closed factories under the Ministry of Industries, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu.

The meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office in the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in the chair.

Shiplu said officials concerned were directed to complete the necessary preparations within this month for the planned roadshows.

During the meeting, he said, senior officials of various organisations under the Ministry of Industries presented detailed reports on the current condition of closed and loss-making factories, outlining their challenges, prospects and possible solutions.

Shiplu said the prime minister instructed the authorities concerned to identify effective ways to reopen closed factories as quickly as possible and

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## Withdraw power tariff hike or face backlash: Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of the recent electricity tariff hike, warning that the government would otherwise have to face public backlash.

He made the remarks as the chief guest at a protest rally held at the north gate of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in Dhaka. The rally was organised in protest against repeated increases in fuel and electricity prices. A procession was brought out after the rally.

Porwar said the BNP-led government had disappointed people by failing to fulfil various promises made before assuming office. He alleged that the government had failed to curb the deterioration of law and order, corruption, and extortion.

Criticising the latest increase in electricity tariffs, he

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## Four more die from measles, symptoms

Death toll now 605

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four more patients died from measles and measles-like symptoms across the country in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, raising the total death toll to 605 since March 15 this year.

Of the new deaths, one was confirmed as measles-related, while three were classified as suspected cases, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the latest fatalities, the number of suspected measles deaths has risen to 514, while confirmed measles deaths stand at 91. A total of 1,136 suspected measles cases were recorded during the reporting period, taking the overall number of suspected cases to 75,708.

The DGHS also reported 69 new confirmed measles cases in 24 hours, bringing the total number of confirmed infections to 9,260. According to the health directorate, 61,194 suspected measles patients have been hospitalised so far, of whom 57,043 have recovered.

## Woman found dead in Pallabi apartment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the partially decomposed body of a woman from her apartment in Dhaka's Pallabi area early Wednesday, with preliminary findings suggesting she had died several days earlier.

The deceased was identified as Selina Afroz, 55. Pallabi Police Station Officer in Charge Hasan Basir said Selina had been living alone in a flat in Block C of Section 6, while her husband and three children reside in Canada.

The body was found on the floor of the apartment, with the door locked from the inside. It was sent to the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy, he said.

According to police and family members, Selina returned to Bangladesh around 12 years ago and

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## COX'S BAZAR Illegal shops return to Sugandha beach

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Hundreds of illegal temporary shops have reappeared on Cox's Bazar's Sugandha beach during the Eid-ul-Azha holiday, undermining a major eviction drive carried out just three months ago.

More than 450 shops and structures were reportedly erected overnight from the eve of Eid, when government offices were closed and monitoring was limited, according to local officials and stakeholders.

The renewed encroachment came despite warnings from the authorities that the beach would be kept free of illegal occupation following the March crackdown.

Acting on a directive from Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, a joint force led by the district administration demolished 930 illegal structures at Sugandha Point on March 12.

At the time, the minister stressed the need for continued vigilance to prevent reoccupation of the beach. Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Md Abdul Mannan said evicted shop owners had filed a petition with the High Court challenging the demolitions.

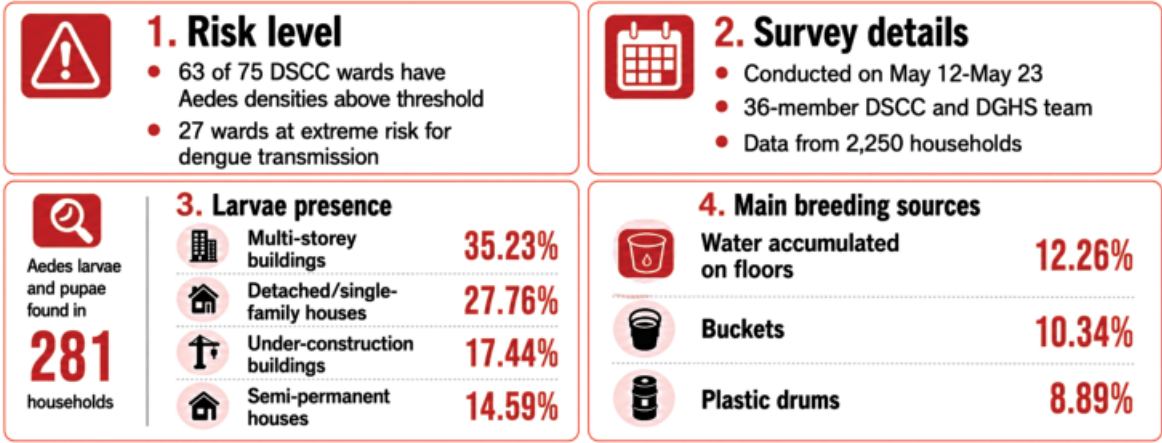
He said all previously issued permits for beach businesses had been cancelled and no new permits would be issued or renewed for the time being.

Several shop owners, requesting anonymity, said they had taken loans from NGOs to run their businesses and faced severe financial hardship after being evicted three months ago. They claimed returning to the beach was their only option to earn a living.

Mujibul Haque, chairman of the Youth Environment Society, alleged that illegal structures had spread across Sugandha, Kolatoli and Seagull Point, as well as into protected sagarlata, or beach creeper, conservation areas.

## 63 of 75 DSCC wards at dengue risk

Finds pre-monsoon survey; city corporation to launch special intervention programme



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Among the 75 wards under Dhaka South City Corporation, 63 were found to have Aedes mosquito densities above the prescribed threshold, while 27 have been identified as being at extreme risk of dengue transmission.

The findings were announced yesterday by DSCC Administrator Abdu Salam at a programme titled “Presentation of Pre-Monsoon Aedes Larvae Survey Results and Action Plan” at Nagar Bhaban.

The survey was conducted from May 12 to May 23 by a 36-member team from DSCC and the Communicable Disease Control Branch of the Directorate General of Health Services.

Data were collected from 2,250

households using the KoboToolbox digital data collection platform.

According to the survey, Aedes mosquito larvae and pupae were found in 281 of the households inspected.

Among the premises where larvae were detected, 35.23 percent were multi-storey buildings, 27.76 percent detached or single-family houses, 17.44 percent under-construction buildings, and 14.59 percent semi-permanent houses.

The most common breeding sources were water accumulated on floors, 12.26 percent; buckets, 10.34 percent; and plastic drums, 8.89 percent.

Based on the findings, DSCC will launch a five-day special crash programme from June 7 in the 27 highest-risk wards. The programme

will be jointly coordinated by its Health Department and Waste Management Department.

The same programme will be extended to the 36 moderately at-risk wards the following week.

A public awareness rally on dengue and chikungunya prevention will also be held on June 6 from Rabindra Sarobar in Dhanmondi. Similar awareness activities will be organised in other areas in phases.

Speaking at the event, Abdu Salam said dengue control could not be achieved through government efforts alone.

Calling for active participation from citizens, he said, “People must develop the habit of keeping their homes and workplaces clean and removing stagnant water every three days.”

## Govt to resume teacher benefit payments soon Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will resume payment of retirement benefits for teachers who have not received allowances under the Teacher Welfare Trust since 2022, said Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon yesterday.

He said this while talking to reporters at the Secretariat after a meeting with the prime minister.

Milon said the government has allocated Tk 2,000 crore for the payments and plans to begin disbursement within the next month.

He alleged that several thousand crores of

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## 2,844 arrested in DMP drives last month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has arrested 658 extortionists, 971 muggers, criminals and robbers, and 1,215 drug dealers during special drives in the capital over the past month, said DMP Commissioner Mosleh Uddin Ahmed at a press briefing yesterday.

He said a total of 2,844 people were arrested in various drives carried out over the last month.

The commissioner also said nine people, including six Chinese nationals, were arrested for their alleged involvement in online gambling, cyber fraud, and illegal digital financial transactions.

Special drives will continue to ensure a safe and secure Dhaka, he said.

Speaking about Eid-ul-Azha security measures,

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PHOTO: STAR

Illegal shops line Sugandha beach in Cox's Bazar after reappearing during the Eid holiday, only three months after authorities demolished hundreds of unauthorised structures in a major eviction drive. The photo was taken recently.