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Separation of modern, Islamic edn limits students

Says army chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman yesterday called for integrating modern and Islamic education, saying the separation between the two limits the role students can play in society.

"If we fix the education system today, the society and nation we will have 30 years from now will certainly be healthy," he said while inaugurating the Army International Islamic Institute at the Jolshiri Abashon Project in Dhaka.

"There is no Islamic education within modern education. Again, Islamic education has nothing from modern education," he said.

"As a result, those who

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PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

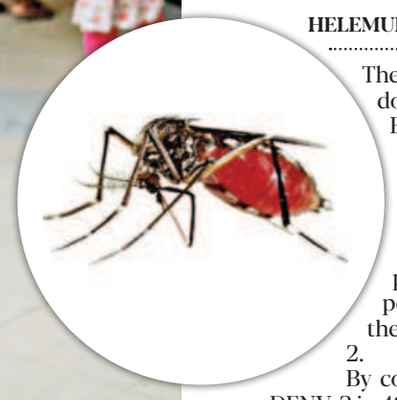
Unable to find a seat, a woman sits on the floor with her child at Mugda Medical College Hospital in Dhaka. The child has had a fever for four days, and doctors suspect dengue while awaiting test results. According to the DGHS, at least three people died and 580 others were hospitalised with dengue in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, taking this year's death toll to 59 and total cases to 16,684.

DENGUE OUTBREAK

DENV-3 now dominant strain

Say experts; hospitals report rising admissions

HELEMUL ALAM



The DENV-3 serotype has become the dominant strain of the dengue virus in Bangladesh this year, replacing DENV-2, which was the most prevalent last year, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

A recent IEDCR survey of 71 dengue-positive patients found that 65 (91.55 percent) were infected with DENV-3, while the remaining six (9.23 percent) had DENV-2.

By comparison, last year's surveillance found DENV-2 in 49.2 percent of samples, followed by DENV-3 (35.8 percent), DENV-1 (8.8 percent), and DENV-4 (6.3 percent), IEDCR Director Dr Quazi Ahmed Zaki told The Daily Star.

According to dengue experts, the virus has four serotypes -- DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 and DENV-4 -- each comprising several genotypes. Although DENV-2 has historically been linked to major outbreaks, disease severity depends on multiple factors rather than the serotype alone.

Zaki cautioned against describing any serotype as inherently more dangerous.

"It would not be scientifically accurate to label one

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AL lacks capacity for August 5 sabotage

Says home minister

UNB, *Dhaka*



Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said the Awami League lacks capability to carry out sabotage surrounding August 5, which is being observed as July Mass Uprising Day.

"I don't think the Awami League has the capacity to do such things. It is a banned organisation and a mafia force. Occasionally, they make attempts to attract attention from abroad, but beyond that, I do not see any significant activity," he told reporters at the Secretariat.

Asked whether intelligence reports had prompted the authorities

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July failed to transform our political culture

Speakers say democratic transition remains fragile as post-uprising unity wanes and women's political participation declines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The expected shift in political parties' conduct and electoral democracy has not materialised despite the July uprising two years ago, while women's once-visible political participation has steadily faded in the post-July period, speakers said yesterday.

They said Bangladesh's democratic transition has become more fragile as the broad unity seen during the July uprising has broken down.

The remarks came at a discussion titled "Return of Electoral Democracy in Bangladesh: Reflections and Learnings from 2026", jointly organised by the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) and BRAC University.

The event also marked the launch of the report, "The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2026 Report: Rupture, Reform, and Reimagining Democracy".

Mahfuj Alam, organiser of Alternatives and former adviser to the interim government, said the broad unity of the National Citizen Committee collapsed amid sharp ideological divisions.

"The movement's attempt at a 'post-ideological' middle ground faltered as right-wing positions gained ground

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It's time to form national security agency

Speakers tell dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh must strengthen its defence capabilities and establish a national security agency to coordinate responses to emerging threats, speakers said at a dialogue in Dhaka yesterday.

They said the country can no longer rely on fragmented institutions, as military, cyber and maritime vulnerabilities continued to test its sovereignty and strategic autonomy.

They made the remarks at a dialogue, titled "Securing Bangladesh's Future: Rethinking National Security in a New and Changing Era", organised by the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) at North South University.

Speaking as chief guest, National Professor Mahbub Ullah said Bangladesh alone cannot ensure its security and must build alliances with countries that share its security risks.

He said Bangladesh had failed to give adequate attention to its armed forces, particularly air and

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Recover hospital land: High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the authorities to recover the encroached land of Infectious Diseases Hospital in Mohakhali within 30 days.

The bench of Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury and Justice Md Ziaul Haque passed the order.

Hospital authorities said, the hospital was allotted 32 acres, of which about eight acres are occupied by its own facilities. Much of the remaining land is occupied by government establishments and illegal occupants. The hospital continues to pay revenue for the entire property.

Australia to give $18m for Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Australia has committed AUD 25.25 million ($18 million) in multi-year humanitarian assistance to help sustain life-saving support for Rohingya refugees and their host communities in Bangladesh.

The funding was announced by the Australian government and the UN Refugee Agency yesterday.

The announcement was made in the presence of Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and Australia's Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs and Assistant Minister for International Education Julian Hill.

'He wanted to tell me something'

Mother raises questions over child's death in madrasa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a madrasa student in Dhaka's Shanir Akhra area yesterday afternoon.

The deceased, Naim Islam Sheikh, 12, was a residential student of Rowzatul Ulum Hafizia Nurani Madrasa in Kadamtali area.

Sub-inspector Md Amjad Hossain of Kadamtali Police Station said they recovered the body from the third floor of the madrasa around 3:30pm and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Citing the madrasa teachers, the SI said Naim had gone to the bathroom around noon. When he did not respond to repeated calls, the teachers broke open the door and found him hanging from a clothes rack, with his panjabi tied around his neck.

The teachers had brought the body down before the police arrived, the SI also said, adding that they were investigating all possible angles.

Naim's mother, Najma Akter, rejected the suicide claim.

She said a madrasa teacher called her in the afternoon, claiming Naim was unwell. Upon arriving at the institution, she found her son dead and the police already present.

"When I visited my son on Friday and brought him home-cooked food, Naim seemed to want to tell me something. But he could not because a teacher was standing beside us," Najma said.

"My son could not have hanged himself," she said, urging law enforcers to conduct a thorough investigation.

Naim, the elder of two brothers, was from Barishal's Wazirpur upazila. His family currently lives in the Muradpur area of Kadamtali, and both brothers were boarders at the same madrasa.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Farmers transplant Aman rice seedlings at Biukara village of Noapara, Jashore, yesterday as preparations for the season gather pace. Adequate rainfall has naturally supplied enough water to the fields, raising hopes for a good harvest.

China partnership crucial for long-term growth

Says PM's foreign affairs adviser Humayun Kabir

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Kabir yesterday said stronger institutional partnerships and knowledge sharing with China would be crucial for long-term development of Bangladesh.

He made the remark while addressing the inaugural session of the four-day Comparative Governance Forum 2026 in Dhaka, jointly organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) and Fudan University's School of International Relations and Public Affairs at the BIISS Auditorium.

Kabir called for expanding cooperation with China in transport, infrastructure, aviation, digital networks and governance to drive economic growth and regional connectivity, reports BSS.

"Bangladesh's strategic location provides significant opportunities to strengthen regional connectivity and expand cooperation in trade, tourism, investment and cultural exchanges," he said.

"We welcome greater collaboration with China and other international

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