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19-year-old killed in fire at Korail slum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 19-year-old youth was killed in a fire at Dhaka's Korail slum early yesterday.

The deceased is Shahriar Rahman Shuvro.

The fire broke out in the western part of T&T Colony in the slum around 4:54am, said Anwarul Islam, a media wing officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Three firefighting units rushed to the scene and brought the blaze under control by 5:25am.

Firefighters later recovered Shuvro's body from the scene, he added.

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 16

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-05	12-45	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT	5-40	1-15	4-00	5-24	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Residents of Korail slum look on in dismay at the charred remains of their homes and belongings after a fire broke out around 4:54am yesterday, killing a 19-year-old. According to the Fire Service and Civil Defence, three firefighting units rushed to the scene and brought the blaze under control by 5:25am.

PHOTO: STAR

4 infantry divisions get new GOCs

Ten senior officers reshuffled; Ansar-VDP gets new chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four infantry divisions of the Bangladesh Army have got new general officers commanding (GOCs) in a reshuffle involving 10 senior officers, according to official orders.

The reshuffle also includes a new director general of Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP), changes at two military training and strategic studies institutions, and the transfer of two major generals to the foreign ministry for appointment as ambassadors.

Three brigadier generals will be promoted to temporary major general upon assuming their new appointments.

Maj Gen Md Sajedur Rahman, currently serving at the National Defence College, has been appointed GOC of the 7 Infantry Division. Maj Gen Abu Hena Mohammad Razi Hasan, currently at the 7 Infantry Division headquarters, has been appointed GOC of the 55 Infantry Division.

Brig Gen ABM Abdul Batin Imani and Brig Gen Mozammel Hossain, both currently at Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) headquarters, have been appointed GOCs of the 11 and 19 Infantry Divisions, respectively. Both will be promoted to temporary major general upon assuming new posts.

Brig Gen Raju Ahmed, currently at Armed Forces Division,

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Politics, weak oversight fuel health sector graft

Finds Bangladesh Health Watch report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Corruption in Bangladesh's health sector is driven by weak institutional accountability, political influence, lack of transparency and conflicts of interest rather than merely individual misconduct, according to a new Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) report.

The report found widespread irregularities in patient services, medical procurement, recruitment, transfers and promotions, along with inadequate regulatory oversight.

Titled "Challenging Corruption: Strengthening Governance in Bangladesh's Health Sector", the biennial report for 2025-26 was launched yesterday at the International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka.

The report found widespread irregularities in patient services, medical procurement, recruitment, transfers and promotions, along with inadequate regulatory oversight.

"Corruption in the health sector is not just individual misconduct. It is usually a sign of weak governance: too much discretion with too little accountability, unmanaged conflicts of interest, fragmented oversight, uneven transparency and an institutional culture that treats informal practices as normal," said Shams El Arifeen, senior scientist at icddr,b, while presenting the findings.

The 11-chapter report, prepared by 17 researchers, examined corruption in healthcare access, professional accountability and health system management. However, it did not specify when the documented irregularities occurred.

It found that brokers, unofficial payments for hospital beds and discharge papers, and referrals to private clinics had turned access to healthcare into a negotiation.

The report also found that diagnostic centres reportedly paid referring doctors 20-50 percent of test charges.

Researchers estimated that commissions among the largest providers alone could reach Tk 1,861

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IN BRIEF

Law and order under control: Salahuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law and order situation across the country remains under control, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed informed the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs during a meeting yesterday.

He also said law enforcement agencies remain firmly committed to preventing all forms of sabotage and terrorism, according to a press release issued by the Parliament Secretariat after the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Salahuddin said the government had taken an initiative to construct and modernise 108-kilometre fencing along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border as part of efforts to combat drug trafficking.

No scope for fresh trial of Hasina

Says ICT chief prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam yesterday ruled out a fresh trial of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, saying Bangladesh's legal framework does not allow anyone to be tried twice on the same charges.

Asked about an international media report that India wants Hasina to be allowed to appeal or face a retrial, he said there was no legal provision for that.

He said neither the government nor the prosecution had the authority to grant an appeal beyond what the law permitted.

Aminul noted that the ICT Act, 1973, was enacted by the then Awami League government, while the Rules of Procedure were framed in 2010 during its tenure. The tribunal operated under the same framework until 2024. "We have not changed any provision of the law relating to appeals. The trial is being conducted under the existing law. Whatever the law provides will be followed."

Malaysia-bound workers to leave from late November

Says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Ariful Haque Choudhury yesterday told the parliament that the migration of Bangladeshi workers to Malaysia will begin at the end of November.

He also said that the list of authorised medical centres for Malaysia-bound workers would be published today.

The minister said the migration cost had been fixed at Tk 1.54 lakh, and warned of strict action against anyone charging more than the approved amount or engaging in any irregularities outside the official system.

