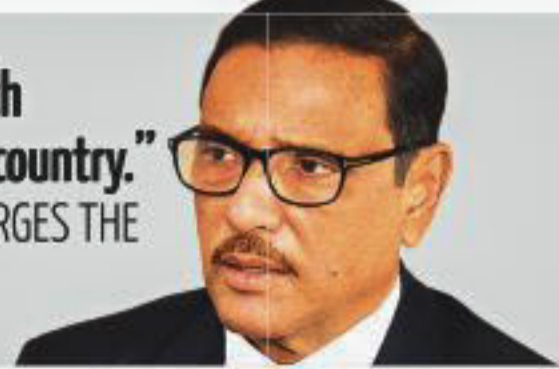
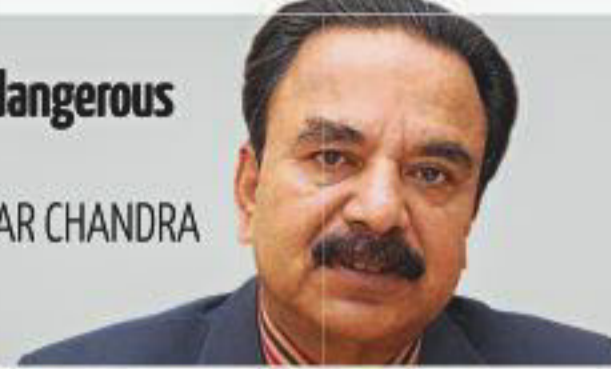




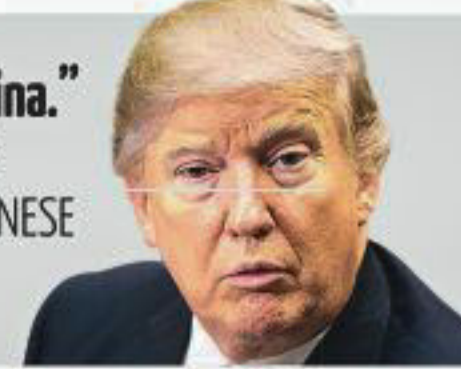
"It's a very sensitive period and too much talking can bring wrong results for the country."
AL GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDUL QUADER URGES THE AUTHORITIES TO TALK LESS



"This government is more dangerous than dengue."
BNP SENIOR LEADER GAYESHWAR CHANDRA ROY, AT A DISCUSSION



"Things are going along very well with China."
US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP A DAY AFTER HE ANNOUNCED PLANS TO IMPOSE TARIFFS ON CHINESE GOODS



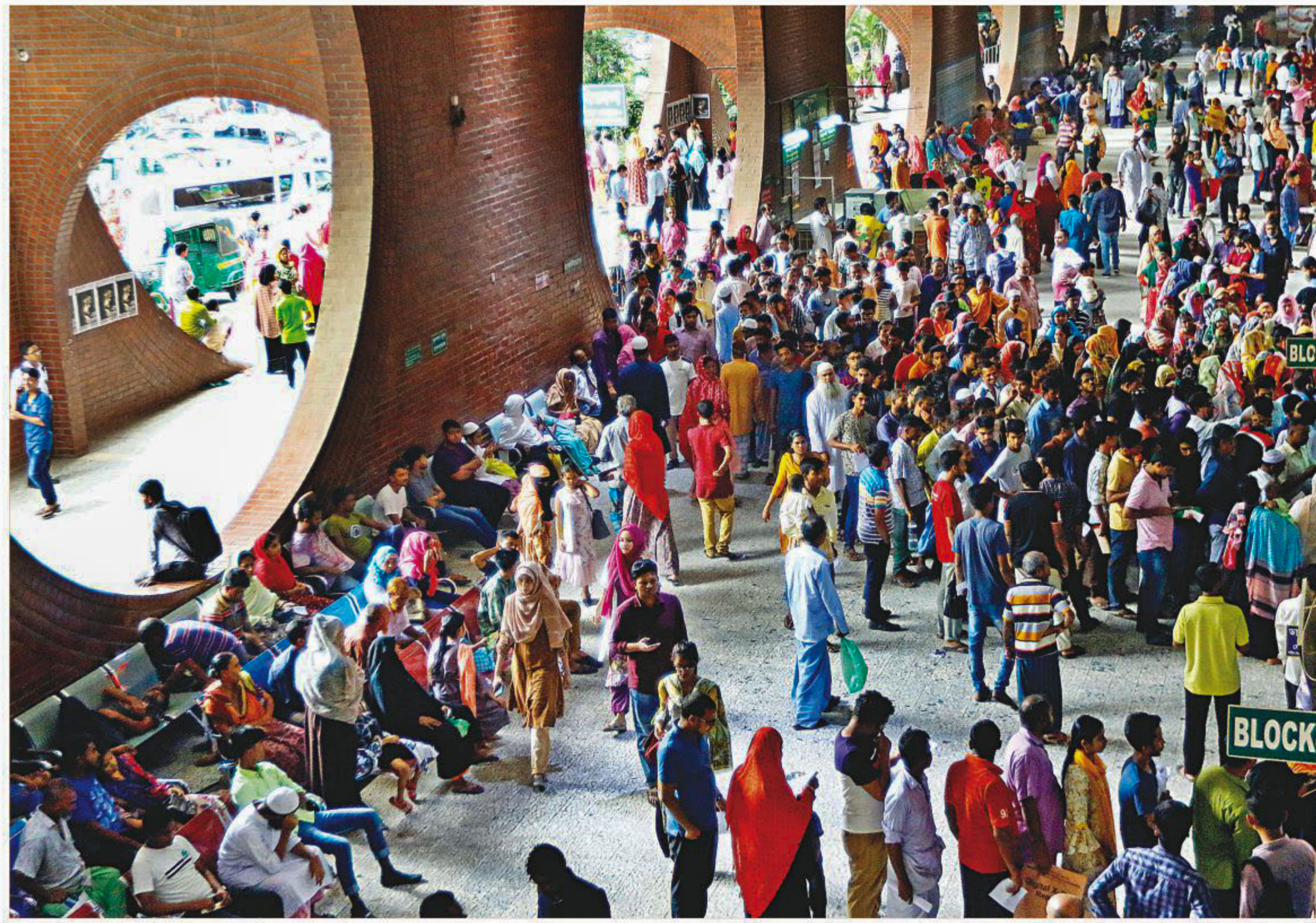
HOLDING RAJUK ACCOUNTABLE

Ministry failed to play its part

Aware of anomalies, it lets the city's development authority get off scot-free

TAFIQUÉ ALI
Repeated tragic deaths and loss of property in fire and building disasters in the capital could have been averted had the housing and public works ministry as the administrative authority held Rajuk duly accountable for its job, said serving and former top officials.
The ministry is well aware of irregularities and aberrations on the part of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) regarding implementation of building laws, development control and the city's master plan as part of its routine regulatory business, they added.
Besides, the Cabinet Division too remains aware of state of affairs of a government agency.
An administrative authority, for example the public works ministry in this case, being aware of its agencies' state of affairs files reports and informs the Cabinet Division of it. The division can raise any issue at the cabinet meeting chaired by the prime minister for discussion, query and decision.

That apart, there is the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry which is supposed to regularly scrutinise the decisions, actions and performance of the ministry and its auxiliary agencies like Rajuk.
Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder said it is mandatory for a ministry as per rules of business to file monthly, quarterly and annual reports to the Cabinet Division on its regulatory role and activities of its subordinate agencies.
Besides, the cabinet secretary may also require any ministry to provide information on any issue of public interest and concern and place it at the cabinet meeting.
"So, isn't it obvious that repeated building and fire tragedies would not have occurred in the capital had the administrative ministry held Rajuk accountable?" asked the head of an agency under the public works ministry, wishing anonymity.
Md Abu Sadeque, immediate past director of House Building Research



People form long queues at counters in the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital yesterday to buy tickets for dengue diagnosis. The hospital does one of the tests for dengue for free.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Some people seem to be above law

Rights group alleges; terms govt report to UN panel unrealistic
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Maulik Adhikar Suraksha Committee yesterday termed "unrealistic" the government's maiden periodic report submitted to the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) during its recent session in Geneva.
The rights group said large sections of the law enforcement agencies, the ruling party, and different vested quarters were above the law and trial. And this was mentioned in the CAT's concluding observations as it did not get appropriate answers to many questions, it added.
The committee

Rights abuses in hills alarming

Alleges Santu Larma; 'violence against indigenous women rising'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The indigenous people are in a critical situation in terms of human rights abuses, Parbatya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity Chairman Santu Larma said yesterday.
Attacks on indigenous communities, grabbing of their lands, eviction, rape, killing, abduction and other forms of violence have increased in different parts of the country, he told a press conference.
Santu Larma, formally known as Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, said, "Especially, the violence against indigenous women has alarmingly increased."
The Bangladesh Adivasi Forum held the press conference at a hotel in the capital on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples next week.
Although 21 years have passed since the signing of the CHT peace accord, its core clauses have not been implemented, he said.
"The CHT accord's implementation process is almost



Dengue cases keep surging

Leave of all staff of city corporations, municipalities cancelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Dengue continues to spread with another 1,649 hospitalised in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.
Three dengue patients, including an 11-year-old boy, died in Dhaka, Madaripur and Barishal in the last two days.
Meanwhile, fresh data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) show that 22,919 people were admitted to hospitals with dengue and 16,047 of them were released between January 1 and yesterday.
Eight of the patients died during the same period, according to the data. Sources at different hospitals, however, put the death toll at 52.

Second Aedes variety behind rapid spread

Suspect experts citing growing number of dengue cases outside Dhaka; recommend extensive survey

HELEMUL ALAM
With dengue cases rising fast even outside Dhaka, experts now fear that a second variety of Aedes mosquito is responsible for the rapid spread of the viral disease.
In an "epidemic condition" with mosquito-borne diseases like filaria, dengue and chikungunya, a secondary vector (carrier) becomes active alongside the primary vector, they said.
There are two varieties of Aedes mosquito -- Aedes Aegypti and Aedes Albopictus, the former being the primary vector and the latter the secondary vector of dengue fever.
Experts say reports of a growing number of dengue cases outside Dhaka indicate that their suspicion about the secondary vector is likely true. They recommended carrying out an extensive survey on the matter and take actions accordingly.
A record 22,919 dengue cases have

Son buried, fight on for daughter

SHAHEEN MOLLAH
Raiyan Sarker, 11, lost the battle against dengue at a city hospital on Friday.
After burying him at a Tejgaon graveyard, his father Momin Sarker went straight back to the hospital later that night to attend to his daughter, who is suffering from the same disease.
Maliha, 6, kept asking about her brother, but Momin and his wife Jannat Ara Jahan had no answer. But the young girl was adamant to know what had happened. She was on the same bed where Raiyan was before he was shifted to the hospital's pediatric intensive care unit (PICU).
"I have lost my son in



Locally reared cattle are abundant at Tartipur market in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila yesterday. Buyers say the prices are a little high with almost no supply of Indian cattle ahead of Eid. Inset, an empty Indian cattle holding station in Masudpur area near the district's border with India.

PHOTO: RABUL HASAN

SPECIAL LAWS

Goal of fast-track trial still unmet

ASHUTOSH SARKAR
Justice is often delayed even in cases filed under some special laws because of non-implementation of relevant provisions for a speedy completion of the trials.
These laws involving rape and torture of women and children, murder, extortion, corruption and narcotics have been formulated to give relief to the litigants within a very short time like two, three or six months.
But they appear to have lost significance as the cases filed under them are not being settled within the required time limits. Even in some cases, it took several years to finish trial proceedings.
Considering the situation, the High Court has issued multiple directives giving time limits to the lower courts concerned to end the trials. However, most of the directives were not being complied with properly.
According to a Supreme Court study report, more than 38,000 cases filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act-2000 have been pending with lower courts for more than five years.
As of March 31 this year, a total of 1,64,551 cases under this law were pending with courts across the country, the report says.
A trial court is supposed to finish the trial proceedings of such a case in six months, according to section 20(3) of the law.
The report also says 1,64,794 narcotics-related cases were pending with lower courts till March 31 and 32,215 of those for more than five years.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3