



Serve country selflessly: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the Bangladesh Army to serve the country with professional efficiency, dutifulness and integrity by remaining loyal to the leadership as well as being imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War and ideals of the Father of the Nation.

The premier made the call while addressing the National Flag giving ceremony of the Headquarters' "71 Mechanised Brigade" "15 and 40 East Bengal (Mechanised)" as well as "9 and 11 Bangladesh Infantry Regiment (Mechanised)" at the CMP Centre and School

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Parents of children admitted to Dhaka Shishu Hospital take the shelter of mosquito nets, set up by the establishment, to spend the nights there. As dengue overwhelms the country, people have become cautious about protecting themselves from the disease-carrying mosquitoes. This photo was taken at dawn on Wednesday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Dengue claims 8 lives in a day

HELEMUL ALAM

Eight dengue patients died, while 765 were admitted to hospitals across the country yesterday.

These are the highest single-day numbers recorded this year.

Total dengue cases crossed the 23,000 mark, the third-highest number witnessed since the first outbreak in Bangladesh in 2000.

A total of 1,01,354 dengue cases, the highest, were recorded in 2019, and 28,429 in 2021. The death tolls were 179 and 105, respectively.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, 23,282 dengue patients, 5,205 from outside Dhaka, have been hospitalised across the country this year so far.

This year's death toll has now risen to 83. Of the deceased, 28 died in the first 13 days of October alone.

Experts urged authorities to immediately conduct extensive drives to identify clusters of Aedes mosquitoes.

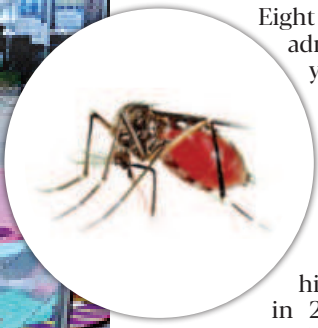
Yesterday at a press briefing in the capital's Mohakhali, Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general (administration) of DGHS, said the highest number of dengue cases have been witnessed in Cox's Bazar, during the current season.

The number of deaths is high outside Dhaka. Most of them died three days after hospitalisation, he said.

DGHS has instructed authorities to prepare more hospitals for dengue treatment.

Entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said every year in October, dengue cases start going down. But this time, the numbers will keep rising.

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More than 1,600 unauthorised buses plying Dhaka roads

Says Taposh; 100 more buses on 2 new routes launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite ongoing drives against unauthorised buses, more than 1,600 such buses are being operated in the city, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said yesterday.

Vowing to stop operation of unauthorised buses in the city, he said around 30 such buses have already been seized during drives.

"Our drives against such vehicles will continue and there will be no unauthorised buses in the city," he said.

The mayor did not clearly explain whether the unauthorised buses did not have route permit or registration.



The DSCC mayor said this while speaking at a programme organised to launch 100 more buses of Dhaka Nagar Paribahan on two new routes, aiming to bring discipline in the city bus service and provide better bus services to passengers.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday inaugurated the services in Dhaka's Bosila area.

Obhi Enterprise, a private operator, will operate 50 new buses for the Ghatarchar to Demra (Route-22) Staff Quarters route. The state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation will operate 50 buses for Ghatarchar to Kadamtoli (Route-26).

The development came around 10 months after the authorities launched bus services on Ghatarchar to Kanchpur route under "single company, single-route"

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Regional climate data centre a timely need

Speakers tell conference

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Political commitment
- Development of climate-related database
- Formation of geospatial academy
- Specific policy for data sharing

Data is scattered across the region, prompting the need to develop a platform regionally. Whatever we have in hand, we have to put it in a way that connects local people and helps them in their fight to be resilient against the climate impact.

MANDIRA SINGH SHRESTHA OF ICIMOD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A regional climate data centre in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region to share non-sensitive data for a better collaboration to fight the impacts of climate change is imperative, said speakers at a conference yesterday.

They made the remarks on the concluding day of the two-day Hindu Kush Himalaya Climate Regional Conference, titled "Climate Data: Opportunities for Resilient Development", held at a Dhaka hotel.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), and the Planning Commission organised the conference.

Gyanendra Karki of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said the data currently in the hand of the countries in the region are enough to start any initiative.

"Every nation having its own strategy can have a complementary adaptation plan that will help bridge the gap in collaboration. It is easy to discuss the problem.

However, no practical solution will come up until there is a political commitment underlining the need to form a regional centre for cooperation among the countries in the HKH region," he said.

Mandira Singh Shrestha from The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), said capacity building was a key part of understanding data.

"Data is scattered across the region, prompting the need to develop a platform regionally. Whatever we have in hand, we have to put it in a way that connects local people and helps them in their fight to be resilient against the climate impact," she said.

She said ICIMOD could lead any such centre to be built for coordination and collaboration across the Hindu Kush Himalaya region.

Anuj Sharma, co-founder of Earth Analytics, said, "The formation of a geospatial academy to generate climate data could help us to mutually understand the impacts of climate change."

"The region also needs a climate change database to guide and mitigate national mitigation efforts. We have to have a realistic goal along with transboundary

collaboration," he added.

Malik Fida A Khan, executive director of Centre for Environment and Geographical Information Services (CEGIS), highlighted the need for a specific policy for data sharing.

"An integrated system for sharing climate data sharing could be a step forward in the process of regional cooperation. We can start with non-sensitive data sharing," he said.

Hasna Jamiuddin Moudud, councillor of South and East Asia at International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), said Bangladesh must prioritise getting flood forecasting from India in advance for the preparation to reduce the damage during a flood.

She also highlighted the need for an equitable share of water from transboundary rivers in line with international convention.

Farhina Ahmed, secretary of the environment ministry, in her chief guest speech, said data sharing and regional collaboration were of immense importance for all the countries across the Hindu Kush Himalaya region.

She also expressed her hopes that the conference will be able to create the much-needed data generation journey in the region.

'Need quick, and peaceful solution' Momen on Russia, Ukraine conflict

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has called for restraints from all parties and a quick and peaceful solution to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

He made the call while delivering a speech at the Sixth Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building

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PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 14

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:45	12:30	4:15	5:45	7:15
JAMAAAT 5:20	1:15	4:30	5:50	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Vehicles continue to move at a snail's pace on this road from Bangla Motor to Moghbazar in the capital. The reason behind the gridlock is mainly due to parked cars, which occupy a part of the road. This photo was taken in front of Ispahani School yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

'Bring them back to classes' Guardians of arrested DU students submit memorandum to VC

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of concerned guardians of students — who were arrested seven days ago on the Dhaka University campus after being attacked by BCL activists — submitted a memorandum to the vice chancellor yesterday.

The parents also urged the university authorities to take immediate steps for releasing the arrestees, accompanied by Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganosamhati Andolon and immediate-past DUCSU VP Nurul Haque Nur.

"My son came under attack on multiple occasions. We demand

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'Biman breaking all records' Airline carried 8.8 lakh passengers, earned Tk 1,563cr in revenue in last 3 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has earned a record amount of revenue by carrying a record number of passengers in the last three months. The national flag carrier carried around 8.8 lakh passengers and earned Tk 1,563 crore breaking all previous records.

Biman Managing Director and CEO Zahid Hossain announced the numbers yesterday at a press conference at Biman's headquarters in the capital's Uttara.

"If the trend continues, at least 32 lakh passengers can be transported in the next year," the Biman boss said.

He also mentioned that ground handling services have also improved as now all luggage can be delivered to passengers within a maximum of 45 minutes.

"Biman Bangladesh Airlines is the only organisation recognised by IATA. A recent audit conducted by European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) did not give any (negative) observations over Biman," said Zahid.

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Refrain from violence German envoy urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

German Ambassador Achim Tröster yesterday expressed concern over growing political violence and called upon all to refrain from it.

"This (refraining from violence) is not difficult. It is a everyone's personal decision to behave in a civilised or uncivilised manner," he said replying to questions from the media at a press conference at his residence.

The event was organised to launch the German Business Council (GBC), a platform for German private companies operating in Bangladesh.

He said recently, his colleagues representing other countries uttered their concern because of the growing political violence.

He said as a friend of Bangladesh, he was "very concerned at the deep antagonism" he found here.

"I don't think that considering political opponents as the enemy is very conducive to a healthy democratic environment," he said.

He said his government is of the firm opinion that a country is best ruled by a democratic system. And his country is convinced that free, fair and transparent election is a big contributing factor to political stability.

"A stable business environment is important for foreign direct investment Nobody would like to have his investment at risk," Tröster said.



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