

## Dengue kills four more, infects 606

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four dengue patients died, while 606 were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

The death toll has now risen to 234, while total cases are now 53,413, of which, 19,053 were recorded outside Dhaka.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), of the deaths, 140 occurred in Dhaka, 24 in Cox's Bazar, 31 in Chattogram, 11 in Barishal, seven in Khulna, six in Mymensingh, five in Rajshahi, two in Narail, and one each in Narsingdi, Kushtia, Pabna, Bagerhat, Khagrachhari, Bogura, Madaripur and Feni.

A total of 50,828 patients, 17,866 are from outside Dhaka, have already been released.



After neatly arranging dozens of cauliflowers, a retail seller ties them tight to ensure that they don't fall off while being moved. After buying the popular winter vegetable for Tk 30 per piece from Genda wholesale market, this vendor sells them for a small profit in the surrounding localities of Savar. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## 'Foreign countries reluctant to share information'

### ACC chair on delays in money laundering probes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The reluctance of foreign countries to share information causes delays in the investigation of money laundering cases, said Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah, chairman of the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC).

"Countries that are more vocal about transparency issues share less information on money laundering," he said yesterday at a views-exchange meeting organised to mark the 18th founding anniversary of ACC at its headquarters.

"They [foreign countries] made all sorts of queries, delaying the investigation process. Ultimately, it seems like the ACC has not done its work properly," he said.

Regarding money laundering, the ACC boss said they cannot directly seek information from any foreign countries.

When an allegation is raised, the ACC collects primary information from Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU). After getting that information, the commission begins the investigation, he said.

"We then approach the foreign ministry via home ministry to request authorities of the respective countries to provide information on money laundering. The process is time-consuming. We often give reminders but the countries respond on their own terms," he added.

Meanwhile, ACC Commissioner Jahurul Haque said they cannot investigate all types of money laundering incidents.

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## BR seeking more foreign funds for projects



**Of the five mechanical projects that require funds, two -- for procuring 200 MG carriages and 70 MG locomotives -- were supposed to be implemented with finances of those who would get tenders. This means that the winning contractors would have to manage loans to fund the projects. However, BR failed to sign the loan deals for these projects due to various difficulties. This is why they now want to implement them by securing new sources of funds.**

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Railway (BR) has sought more funds from European Investment Bank (EIB) to expand lines and procure locomotives and carriages for improved services.

The state-run transport agency placed eight projects before an EIB delegation during a meeting on Sunday in the capital's Rail Bhaban.

The delegation of EIB -- which usually co-finances projects in Bangladesh -- will discuss the proposals with the organisation's higher-ups and notify its final decisions later, said three participants of the meeting.

Railways ministry secretary Humayun Kabir led BR's side, while Edvardas Bumsteinas, head of Asia and Pacific Division Public Sector Operations of EIB Global, led the three-member EIB delegation, said the participants, requesting anonymity.

EIB has already invested in two BR projects, one for setting up Akhura-Laksam Double Line and another for procuring 200 broad-gauge (BG) carriages.

Of the eight projects placed before the EIB delegation, three are civil projects, while five are mechanical.

One of the civil projects is for converting 123.76 km of Laksam-Chattogram metre-gauge (MG) double line into a dual-gauge double line, to improve Dhaka-Chattogram rail connectivity.

The project would require \$1,797.51 million. The feasibility study of the project has already been completed.

The second project is for constructing the Dhaka-Laksam Chord Line. The estimated cost of the project, for building an 88.5 km new line, is \$3,000 million.

Another project is for converting the 120-km Bhairab Bazar-Mymensingh MG line to a dual-gauge line. The project would cost around \$1,680 million.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has already expressed interest to invest in the first two projects, which have already been listed in ADB's pipeline.

"The EIB delegation also expressed its interest to co-finance these two projects with ADB," a participant of the meeting told this correspondent.

The five mechanical projects include those for procuring 46 BG locomotives; 200 MG carriages;

54 MG carriages for tourist trains; 70 MG locomotives; and one to modernise heavy-duty workshops at Saidpur and Pahartali.

Of the five mechanical projects that require funds, two -- for procuring 200 MG carriages and 70 MG locomotives -- were supposed to be implemented with finances of those who would get tenders for the work. This means that the winning contractors would have to manage loans to fund the projects.

However, BR failed to sign the loan deals for these projects due to various difficulties.

This is why they now want to implement them by securing new sources of funds, said BR sources.

The project for 200 MG carriages would require \$145 million, while the 70 MG locomotive project would cost \$312.86 million.

The EIB delegation also expressed interest to invest in these two projects, as those are ready to be implemented, said the participant, requesting anonymity.

BR Director General Dharendra Nath Mazumder, who was present at the meeting, said EIB will inform them about their decision after a discussion with its higher-ups.

## SSC result on Nov 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent exams will be published on November 28.

Chief of the Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee Prof Tapan Kumar Sarker said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will announce the results on the day.

There will be a press conference, and all details of the results will be disclosed at the event, said Tapan, also Dhaka education board chairman.

Some 2,021,868 students took the SSC and equivalent examinations this year. Of them, 1,599 lakh were from nine general education boards, 2.68 under the madrasa education board, and 1.53 lakh under technical education board.

SSC and its equivalent exams started on September 15 this year.

Generally, the exams take place in February, but they were delayed due to Covid-19 and floods.

## PRAYER TIMING

NOVEMBER 22

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

## Petition challenging Momen's cabinet membership binned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summarily rejected a writ petition that challenged the legality of AK Abdul Momen's ministership and him being a lawmaker for his reported "controversial comments".

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo passed the order, saying that there is no merit in the petition as there is no evidence of Momen violating the constitution.

Addressing a Chattogram event on August 18, Momen said he requested the Indian government to do whatever necessary for the continuation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government rule.

"I went to India and said Sheikh Hasina's rule must be continued. She is our role model. If her rule is ensured, our country will stride towards development and become a truly non-communal

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## Stop 'leasing' Dhaka footpaths: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government authorities concerned to stop "leasing" footpaths in Dhaka in seven days and take legal action against the offenders.

Chief executive officers of two Dhaka city corporations, additional police commissioner (traffic) and two joint police commissioners (traffic) of Dhaka, and deputy commissioners and officers-in-charge of 15 police stations of Dhaka were asked to comply with the directives.

Besides, the HC ordered the government to constitute a five-member high-powered committee to find out the "lessors", make a list of their names and submit it to the court in 60 days.

The two city mayors and secretaries at the home ministry and local government, rural development and cooperatives ministry were ordered to form the committee.

The HC also issued a rule asking the officials concerned to explain in four weeks why their

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## Eskayef first to export injectable products to US

STAR REPORT

Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Limited, one of the leading pharmaceutical companies of Bangladesh, started exporting complex injectable products to the most coveted market in the world, USA. It is the first time an injectable product from Bangladesh is being shipped to USA, according to a press release issued by Eskayef.c

Earlier in September 2022, Eskayef was accredited with the prestigious US FDA approval for its injectable manufacturing facility. It is the 1st and only injectable manufacturing site in Bangladesh to achieve such a stringent accreditation. Prior to that, Eskayef received US FDA approval for its solid manufacturing facility, Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain Building (FAHB).

Other major global accreditations of Eskayef include UK MHRA, EU GMP, Brazil ANVISA, Australia TGA and South Africa SAHPRA. Eskayef's commitment to quality has driven to venture through a relentless journey of conquering all the major stringent approvals of the world.

Simeen Rahman, Group CEO of Transcom Limited and Managing Director and CEO of Eskayef Pharmaceuticals said, "Eskayef has reached a momentous milestone today. Being a Bangladeshi pharmaceutical company, we are now able to showcase our strength and capability in the US market with injectable products.

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Simeen Rahman, group CEO of Transcom Limited and managing director and CEO of Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Limited, along with senior officials of Eskayef at the programme to mark Bangladesh's first-ever export of injectable product to the US market.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## DU, Dhaka councils of Chhatra League on Dec 2-3

DU CORRESPONDENT

The council of Dhaka University's Chhatra League unit will be held on December 3 in front of the university's arts building.

Besides, the council for Dhaka city (north and south) Chhatra League will be held on December 2 and 3 at Suhrawardy Udyan, revealed BCL central committee president Al Nahiyen Khan joy at a press conference in DU's Madhur canteen yesterday.

Following the announcement, the incumbent DU BCL unit called for a meeting today for council preparations, reads a press release issued by DU BCL President Sonjit Chandra Das and General Secretary Saddam Hussain.