

## Dengue kills 3 more, infects 477

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three dengue patients died, while 477 were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

The death toll has now risen to 240, while total cases are now 54,805, of which, 19,517 were recorded outside Dhaka.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), of the deaths, 145 occurred in Dhaka, 25 in Cox's Bazar, 31 in Chattogram, 11 in Barisal, 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 52,083 patients, 18,515 from outside Dhaka, have already been released from hospitals.

Some 2,082 patients, 907 from outside Dhaka, are still undergoing treatment.



To remember what happened on this day 10 years ago, Garments Sramik Sanghati arranged a photo exhibition outside the gates of Tazreen factory, as a form of protest and to highlight the justice and compensation the victims are deprived of to this day.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## First EU-Bangladesh dialogue today

PORIMOL PALMA

European Union is going to hold the first-ever political dialogue with Bangladesh today, as the two sides aim to deepen their relationship, at a time when the influence of Bangladesh is growing globally.

European External Action Service (EEAS) Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs Enrique Mora will lead the EU side of the dialogue, while State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam will lead Bangladesh's side.

The event will be held at the capital's Padma state guest house.

### TALKING POINTS

- Rohingya crisis
- Technological support for renewable energy
- Stance on Russia-Ukraine war
- Free and open Indo-Pacific
- Cooperation on anti-terrorism efforts

"We have an opportunity to discuss all sorts of political issues that we have shared concerns on," EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley told The Daily Star.

He said both Bangladesh and EU have various global and bilateral interests, and the areas of cooperation between the countries are expanding.

The decision of holding a political dialogue was taken in October last year, during a meeting between Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and Mora.

EU has been providing duty-free access for Bangladeshi products to its market under "Everything But Arms" programme, which has greatly contributed to the flourishing of Bangladesh's apparel industry.

However, the duty-free access could end with the LDC graduation of Bangladesh.

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## Deputy secy sent to compulsory retirement

Ministry took decision after he was found guilty of rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA) has sent a deputy secretary to compulsory retirement, as he was found guilty of rape in the departmental proceedings.

The ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard on Tuesday.

However, it took the ministry two years to hand down the punishment to Deputy Secretary AKM Rezaul Karim, who is also facing a rape charge in a criminal case under the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act 2000.

Before his transfer to Jatiya Grantha Kendra as its director in 2018, Rezaul had been the principal of Mohammadpur Government College for about seven to eight years.

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## METRO RAIL

## Likely to partially start in December's last week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first-ever metro rail service in the country is likely to be launched partially in the last week of December, said metro rail authorities yesterday.

"We've sent a proposal to the ministry [road transport and bridges ministry] mentioning the last week of December [for inauguration]," said MAN Siddique, managing director of DMITCL.

"We hope, as per our proposal, the prime minister will be able to inaugurate it on any day of December last week...You can say without any doubt that the service will be launched in the last week December," he added.

Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMITCL) is implementing the project, formally known as Mass Rapid Transit MRT Line 6.

Siddique was briefing reporters after signing a contract for a package of MRT Line-1, another metro rail line, at a city hotel yesterday.

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## TAZREEN TRAGEDY

# The never-ending wait

Victims of the fire incident still devoid of justice after 10 years

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Maya Begum, a survivor of the blaze that engulfed Tazreen factory 10 years ago, is losing all hope for justice, or financial assistance for that matter, as proceedings of the case centring this incident is progressing at a snail's pace.

"Only God above knows how we are passing our days," said a frustrated Maya, who worked as a cleaner at the factory in Ashulia.

Maya's daughter Rupa Akter also worked there as a sewing operator. She jumped from the building's second floor after the fire started.

She suffered severe injuries in her spine, head, and legs. Her life has been changed forever.

"Justice could be our only solace, but we don't know how many years we have to wait for it," said Nasima Akter, another sewing operator of the factory, whose husband also worked with her.

"My husband Kamal Hossain Gazi and I jumped from the third floor to save ourselves from the blaze. We made it out, but now,

**“ My husband Kamal Hossain Gazi and I jumped from the third floor to save ourselves from the blaze. We made it out, but now, we are physically disabled. Justice could be our only solace, but we don't know how many years we have to wait for it. ”**

NASIMA AKHTER, sewing operator of Tazreen Fashions



we are physically disabled," said Nasima, a mother of three children.

A day after the massive fire on November 24, 2012 -- which killed over 112 workers and wounded scores -- a case was filed with Ashulia Police Station.

The trial proceedings have made no satisfactory headway in the last seven years due to the prosecution's failure to produce the witnesses before the court for depositions.

Only 11 out of the 104 prosecution witnesses gave their depositions before the court after charges were framed, a court staffer told The Daily Star.

Mirazul Islam, a supervisor of the factory, gave his deposition on May 18 this year. Since then, no witnesses came to the court for deposition, he said.

From May to August this year, the court issued non-bailable arrest warrants against eight absentee witnesses and summonses against another six witnesses for failing to comply with multiple court orders.

However, they still did not appear for depositions, according to the court's records.

"The witnesses have not been produced before court for deposition due to a lack of the government's logistical support, which is delaying trial proceedings,"

said AKM Shah Newaz, an additional public prosecutor of the First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka.

"If the prosecution is not vigilant while implementing the court's summonses and non-bailable arrest warrants on time, they will fail to produce the witnesses before the court for depositions," Khurshid Alam Khan, a criminal law expert, told The Daily Star. "And so, the trial proceedings move slowly."

Khairul Mamun Mintu, a regional leader of Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, said, "The government and BGMEA could not ensure compensation to the victims' families in 10 years. Most of the accused, including factory owner Delwar, are free from consequences."

On December 2, 2013, AKM Mohsin Uzzaman Khan, an inspector of police's Criminal Investigation Department, submitted a charge sheet against Tazreen Fashions owner Delwar Hossain, his wife Mahmuda Akter Mita and its 11 employees.

The court framed charges against 13 accused on September 3, 2015. Of the accused, nine, including Delwar and his wife, are now on bail. The rest are on the run. [Our correspondent in Savar contributed to this report.]

## BLOGGER OYASIQUR MURDER

# Three accused brought to court in fetters, cuffs

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Three members of the banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ATB) were produced before a Dhaka court with fetters and handcuffs yesterday, in the murder case of secularist blogger Oyasiquur Rahman Babu, following the court's orders.

ABT members Zikrullah, Ariful Islam and Saiful Islam -- now in jail -- were produced before the court under tight security.

The prosecution division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police on November 21 sent a letter to Inspector General of Prisons to produce militants accused in different cases before the court with fetters and handcuffs to avoid any untoward incidents.

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## Avoid Airport Road for 3 days

### BRT requests city dwellers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka city dwellers have been requested to avoid Airport Road for 60 hours, starting from tomorrow evening, as traffic situation may worsen due to the development work of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

The work will go on from 6:00pm of November 24 to 6:00am of November 27, says a notice signed by the project director, ASM Elias Shah.

Both people and vehicles have been requested to use alternate routes as there is a possibility of tailback, the notice reads.

Talking to The Daily Star, ASM Elias Shah said the notice was issued as the authorities will have to shut two, out of four, lanes for the development work.

PRAYER TIMING  
NOV 24



	Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5:04	12:45	3:45	5:21	7:00
Jamaat	5:40	1:15	4:00	5:24	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Lights of different colours, shapes and sizes are sold from this van for as low as Tk 50. The vendor keeps all the multi-coloured lights on to attract customers of different income groups. Many of them are battery-powered, which is popular among residents who suffer from long hours of load shedding. This photo was taken in Lalmatia area recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

**বরিশাল বীমা মেলা উপলক্ষে আমাদের সকল পলিসিহোল্ডার, শেয়ারহোল্ডার ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা**

মেঘনা লাইফ ২৭,১০৫ জনকে মৃত্যু এবং ৮,৬৬,৭৬৮ জনকে মেয়াদপূর্তি দাবী বাবদ ৩২৬০ কোটি টাকা পরিশোধ করেছে।

■ পরিসম্পদ ১,৮১৬ কোটি টাকা।

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