



AUG 21 CARNAGE Khaleda Zia, Tarique were complicit: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for expediting the implementation of the trial court's verdict in the August 21 grenade attack case.

"Our leaders and activists, including Ivy Rahman, were brutally killed in broad daylight on August 21. The trial has been held. Its [trial court's] judgment has

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Construction of a new four-lane Kanchan bridge over the Shitalakkhya river is underway in Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila. The structure is being built under a public-private-partnership project, which was taken up to turn the Joydevpur-Debogam-Bhulta-Madanpur road, commonly known as Dhaka Bypass Road, into a four-lane expressway. Once the expressway is opened in August 2025, vehicles will be able to easily travel from northern and western parts of the country to eastern and southern parts without entering Dhaka city. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Dengue cases hit all-time high

Number of deaths also surpasses all previous records

HELEMUL ALAM

With 2,192 new patients admitted to hospitals yesterday, dengue cases hit a record high since its first official outbreak in 2000, crossing the 1,00,000-threshold in eight months this year.

The total number of dengue cases reached 1,02,197 till yesterday this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). The previous highest number of cases in a year was 1,01,354 in 2019.

The number of fatalities also reached the highest mark this year as nine patients died from the mosquito-borne disease in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 485. Of the dead, 363 are reported in Dhaka.

Experts blamed the casual approach of the authorities concerned for the rise in the number of dengue cases and deaths this year.

"The city corporations' casual approach early in the season contributed to increased breeding of the Aedes population, carrier of the dengue virus," said entomologist GM Saifur Rahman.

"When the Aedes population declined after October last year, no initiative was taken to contain the rest, for which it has started spreading again. Then again, we didn't try to detect the virus spreading mosquitoes at the beginning of this year," he stressed.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar, a professor at Jahangirnagar University, said the impact of climate change has also made Bangladesh dengue-prone throughout the year.

"A temperature between 20 and 30 degrees Celsius is required for Aedes mosquitoes to breed. Temperature in our country is 20 degrees even in winter ..."

The month of August could see the peak of

dengue cases this year and it may start coming down slowly from September, Bashar predicted.

"We have observed that dengue cases are decreasing and this downward trend will continue," he said.

However, the number of dengue cases outside Dhaka will come down very slowly due to a dearth of anti-mosquito drives and a lack of awareness among people in those areas, he added.

YEAR	TOTAL INFECTIONS	TOTAL DEATHS
2023 (till August 21)	1,02,191	485
2022	62,362	281
2021	28,429	105
2020	1,405	7
2019	1,01,354	179

Bashar suggested immediate management of dengue hotspots and more involvement of public representatives in creating awareness among the public.

Talking about how to combat the spread of dengue, GM Saifur said continuous adulticiding -- applying pesticides to kill mosquitoes -- is a must to address the current situation.

"There is no alternative to killing adult mosquitoes in the places where people are being infected with dengue," he said, recommending that the breeding sources be destroyed.

Outside Dhaka, the government will have to take necessary measures to conduct proper anti-

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BRICS SUMMIT

Dhaka to seek greater co-op to face dev challenges

PM flying to South Africa today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka today to attend the 15th BRICS Summit in South Africa, where global leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will gather.

The PM, who was invited to the summit by South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, will seek greater cooperation among the countries of the Global South to overcome the developmental challenges the world faces today.

A business delegation will accompany her to explore trade and business opportunities.

A regular Emirates flight, carrying Sheikh Hasina, will take off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 10:15am and will land at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport in the evening, according to the schedule available from the Prime Minister's Office.

South Africa, the current chair of BRICS -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- is hosting the summit at a time when the world is witnessing a polarisation, especially since the Russia-Ukraine war began.

Nearly 70 heads of governments

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মেরিল মিল্ক সোপ বার-এ
৳১০ দাম কমালো
স্কয়ার টয়লেট্রিজ

*মেরিল মিল্ক সোপ বার ১৫০ গ্রাম ১০ টাকা কমে ৭০ টাকায়,
১০০ গ্রাম ৫ টাকা কমে ৫৫ টাকায় এবং ৭৫ গ্রাম ২ টাকা কমে
পাওয়া যাচ্ছে ৪৩ টাকায়।

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UNIVERSAL PENSION SCHEME 31-40 age group showing most interest

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

People belonging to the 31-40 age group have so far enroled the most for the newly-launched universal pension scheme.

Of the 6,103 subscribers as of 8:30am yesterday, 2,654 belonged to this age group, putting in Tk 1.39 crore, according to the National Pension Authority (NPA) statistics.

They were followed by 41-50-year-olds (1,837) and 21-30 year-olds (1,198).

Some 25 people over the age of 61 signed up, while 76 18-20-year-olds also enrolled on the pension scheme.

NPA received a total of Tk 3.05 crore as of 8:30am yesterday, with the Pragati scheme, which is meant for private sector employers, seeing the most number of takers.

Of the 6,103 people who enrolled for pension, 53 percent were for the Pragati package.

The Surokkha scheme, which is designed for the self-employed and the informal sector workers like farmers, rickshaw pullers and day labourers, saw the next highest number of enrolments: 1,828.

Some 875 people signed up for the ultra-poor group's Samata scheme, while the Probashi scheme for the expatriates had 148 takers.

Location-wise, the highest number of 1,839 people enrolled in the Dhaka division, followed by Chattogram (1,654), Khulna (731), Rajshahi (544), Rangpur (390), Barishal (388), Mymensingh (352) and Sylhet (205).

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Exhausted after waiting for about an hour in a long queue in front of an OMS truck, homemaker Tanjina sits on the footpath with her two kids who have fallen asleep. People from low income families had to endure the scorching sun for about a couple of hours near Japan Garden City in the capital's Mohammadpur before they could buy rice and flour at subsidised prices. Each of them could buy 5kg rice for Tk150 and 5kg flour for Tk120.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Russian FM Lavrov to visit Dhaka on September 7

DIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will be visiting Dhaka on September 7-8 before attending the G-20 Summit in India.

During his visit, he will make a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and hold an official meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart AK Abdul Momen, a diplomatic source confirmed.

Earlier, Lavrov was supposed to visit Bangladesh on November

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