



## DENGUE OUTBREAK

# Fatalities cross 800

14 more deaths, 2,595 cases recorded

UNB, Dhaka

With 14 more deaths recorded yesterday, the total number of dengue fatalities has now crossed the 800-mark.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, the number of deaths now stands at 804, while 2,595 more dengue patients were admitted to hospital in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Of the new patients, 881 were admitted to hospitals in Dhaka and the rest outside the capital – indicating that the dengue situation is worsening across the country, the DGHS said.

At least 10,330 dengue patients, including 4,208 in the capital, are currently being treated in different hospitals.

From the beginning of September, 211 people have died while 40,754 were hospitalised with dengue, the DGHS added.



**A BRIDGE THAT CONNECTS NOTHING...** Built over a canal about seven years ago without an approach road, this bridge is of no use to the residents of Bakshalipur and Kazirkandi villages in Narsingdi Sadar upazila. The villagers still need to take a detour of five kilometres. This char land in the area remains under water during the monsoon every year. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: JAHIDUL ISLAM JOY

## Govt to sell potatoes at Tk 27 a kg if traders don't

Says DG of national consumer rights protection directorate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

If wholesalers do not sell potatoes at Tk 27 a kg, the new price cap, the government will sell them, said AHM Shafikuzzaman, director general of the national consumer rights protection directorate, yesterday.

"From tomorrow, potatoes will be sold at Tk 27 a kg by the cold storage [owners]," he said during a discussion with leaders of the cold storage owners association in Munshiganj.

"If the government wants, it can sell potatoes by acquiring them. But the government does not want to flex its power. Therefore, I request all potato traders to sell at the wholesale price of Tk 27 and the retail price of Tk 35-36," he said.

The commerce ministry on Thursday announced a price cap on potatoes, onions and eggs.

There are 350,000 tonnes of potatoes in 60

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## PLASTICS IN THE BAY

# Patuakhali fishermen alone dump 15 tonnes a year: study

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Around 15 tonnes of non-biodegradable waste are dumped into the Bay of Bengal by fishermen of Patuakhali every year, says a study.

The waste includes plastic bags, bottles, polythene, wrappers of biscuits, and snacks that are used in fishing trawlers in the sea, according to the study of Ecofish, a non-government organisation.

The study was conducted in January this year on the fishermen of two fish landing stations – Alipur and Mohipur – adjacent to Kuakata sea beach, said officials of Ecofish working on the environment, fishermen, and the coast.

They recently shared the study findings with The Daily Star.

Fishermen can catch fish in the sea for around five months in a year as the government bans fishing in the remaining seven months of the year due to inclement weather and to ensure the smooth breeding of fish.

Around 400 trawlers go to the sea for fishing in phases during this five months. Each trawler can carry 12 to 20 fishermen and a trawler has to stay in the sea for around a week on each trip, says



the study report.

On average, a trawler can make 15 trips during this tenure. On each trip, fishermen of a trawler take with them plastic bags, bottles, polythene, wrappers of biscuits, and snacks weighing around 2.5kg, according to the study.

It added that the fishermen dump the non-biodegradable waste into the sea after use.

So, it can be estimated that fishermen of a trawler dump around 37.5kg of waste on its 15 trips throughout the year. So, fishermen of 400 trawlers throw non-biodegradable waste of around 15 tonnes in the sea every year, according to the study report.

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## Germany, France regret verdict against Adilur, Elan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

France and Germany yesterday expressed regret over the imprisonment of Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan and Director ASM Nasiruddin Elan.

Jan Janowski, deputy head of mission of the German Embassy in Bangladesh, posted a joint statement of the two countries on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"France and Germany are deeply attached to respect for the rule of law as well as to the democratic acquis in Bangladesh. They will continue to support defenders of human rights in Bangladesh, like throughout the world," the statement said.

"We regret the Bangladeshi court's decision regarding Adilur Rahman Khan and ASM Nasiruddin Elan. We have expressed our concern to the authorities on this situation and will maintain our dialogue with them on this case."

They recalled that

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## INDUSTRIALISATION POLICY

# Govt needs to finetune it

Says S Korean ambassador during visit to Hyundai car plant



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

South Korea wants stronger policy support from the government to manufacture in Bangladesh, which, in turn, will create jobs at home and help achieve middle-income status, said its ambassador yesterday.

As Bangladesh graduates from the LDC bracket, its duty-free quota will be taken away and both the government and the private sector need to make extensive preparations for the competitive global market that awaits, said Park Young-sik, the South Korean ambassador to Bangladesh, during a visit to the manufacturing plant

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## LIBYA FLOOD

# Derna struggles to cope with so many corpses

REUTERS, Derna

Residents and rescue workers in the devastated Libyan city of Derna are struggling to cope with the thousands of corpses washing up or decaying under rubble, after a flood that smashed down buildings and swept people to sea.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and other aid groups have urged the Libyan authorities to stop burying flood victims in mass graves, saying these could bring long-term mental distress to families or cause health risks if located near water.

A UN report said more than 1,000 people had so far been buried in that manner since Libya, a nation divided by a decade of conflict and political chaos, was hit on Sunday by torrential rain that caused two dams to burst.

Thousands were killed and thousands more are missing.

"Bodies are littering the streets, washing back on shore, and are buried under collapsed buildings and debris. In just two hours, one of my colleagues counted over 200 bodies on the beach near Derna," Bilal Sabloulh, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) forensics manager for Africa, told a briefing in Geneva.

Ibrahim al-Arabi, health minister in Libya's Tripoli-based government, told Reuters he was certain groundwater was polluted with water mixed up with corpses, dead animals, refuse and chemical substances.

"We urge people not to approach the wells in Derna," he said.

Mohammad al-Qabisi, head of Derna's Wahda Hospital, said a field hospital was treating people with chronic illnesses needing regular attention. He said there were

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## Abandoned Apollo 17 lunar lander module causing moonquakes

CNN



A spacecraft left behind by US astronauts on the lunar surface could be causing small tremors known as moonquakes, according to a new study.

Researchers revealed the previously unknown form of seismic activity on the moon for the first time through an analysis of Apollo-era data using modern algorithms.

Massive temperature swings that occur on the moon can cause human-made structures to expand and contract in a way that produces these vibrations, the report suggests.

The lunar surface is an extreme environment, oscillating between minus 208 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 133 degrees Celsius) in the dark and 250 degrees Fahrenheit (121 degrees Celsius) in direct sun, according to a news release about the study.

In fact, the entire surface of the moon expands and contracts in the cold and heat, noted the study published September 5 in the Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets.



**Patients are forced to lie on the floor of Pirojpur General Hospital as 281 were admitted to the medical facility yesterday morning against its bed capacity of 100. The situation worsened recently as the number of dengue patients surged.**

PHOTO: KM HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Man shot by 'plainclothes' police during raid in Demra

Cops give conflicting info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of police allegedly in plainclothes shot a man in the leg while raiding a flat in Demra early yesterday.

Minhajin Abedin Fahim, 27, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a bullet wound to his leg.

His wife Brishati Akhtar Sima said 10-12 men in civilian clothes and carrying firearms knocked on the door of their flat on Madbar Bari Road in Madbar area around 4:00am.

"Without identifying themselves, they persistently kept knocking and raising their voices. My husband thought that it was a gang of robbers. He and his younger brother Naeem tried to flee when

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