



Seven-month-old Hossain resting at his uncle's place after he was released from DMCH yesterday morning. Meanwhile, the family is still shell-shocked at the tragic death of Hossain's father, mother and elder sister. This photo was taken in Jhilpar slum.

PHOTO: STAR

## MIRPUR ELECTROCUTION

**The child survives**

Sacrifice of a passerby, compassion of 3 hijras save seven-month-old

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A seven-month-old boy miraculously survived after being found unconscious beneath the waterlogged streets near Mirpur Commerce College in the midst of a downpour on Thursday night.

Three hijra individuals rushed Hossain to a hospital braving inclement weather, saving the little one's life in the process. However, the boy will now have to grow up without the love of his father, mother, and seven-year-old sister who lost their lives after coming into contact with a live wire in the waterlogged road.

Dhaka streets were flooded

following 113mm rain on Thursday night, when the tragedy took place.

With little Hossain in his arms, Mizanur Rahman, 32, was trying to pass the inundated Haji Road along with his wife, Mukta Begum, 22, and their seven-year-old daughter Lima, when they suddenly fell on the waterlogged street around 10:00pm, shows a CCTV footage of the area.

Despite the presence of stranded commuters and onlookers, only Anik, a 20-year-old autorickshaw driver, attempted a rescue, initially believing the family had accidentally fallen into a ditch. Anik, too, met the same fate.

In his final moments, the youth

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After Thursday night's downpour, areas of the city like (clockwise from left) Nilkhet, New Market and Chandni Chowk Market were still suffering from the after-effects yesterday. While some found innovative methods to traverse the waters, others were left cleaning up the mess it left behind.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Power division expresses shock at death  
Says it will take steps after probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The power division yesterday expressed shock at the deaths of four people, including three of a family, after being electrocuted in Dhaka's Mirpur on Thursday night.

The tragedy happened when the victims came in contact with a live electric wire on the waterlogged street. The power division assumed that the incident may have happened due to faulty wireline of any consumer's internal services.

"At around 10:25pm, the power distributor Desco learnt from the fire service about the accident in Mirpur's Rupnagar and immediately switched off the feeder of that area. They later sent a team to look after the matter," the power division said.

"The team didn't get any LT or HT line (distribution line) disconnected and the connection was restored at around 11:27pm," the statement read.

"Such an accident is very painful and shocking," read the statement, adding that the power division will take steps after investigating the incident.

For any emergency help related to the power sector, all were suggested to call 16999 helpline number immediately.

**Dengue deaths this year surpass 22-year total**

DIPAN NANDY

With four new dengue related deaths in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, the number of fatalities this year stands at 879, surpassing the cumulative dengue-related fatalities recorded over the past 22 years, since the disease's outbreak in the country in 2000.

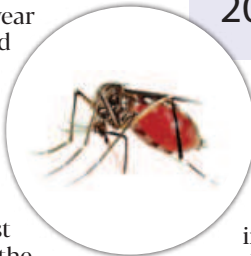
The combined death toll from 2000 to 2022 stood at 853, meaning the mosquito-borne disease has claimed 26 more lives this year alone, compared to the cumulative figure from the past 22 years.

This year's death toll went past the last 22 years' figure last Wednesday, when the country reported 21 new deaths.

Meanwhile, 2,153 dengue patients were hospitalised during this time, taking the total number of cases to 1,81,852.

The daily dengue bulletin from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) relies on data from 57 public and private hospitals in Dhaka, and 81 district and divisional-level hospitals.

However, there are approximately 16,000 more public and private hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres, and blood banks across the country that are providing dengue care, suggesting that the actual number of cases and fatalities may be significantly underreported, said experts.



## WHY SO MANY DEATHS

Negligence of the authorities concerned, reinfections, coinfection (suffering from other infections alongside dengue) and presence of Den 2 and Den-3 serotypes among the infected are reasons behind this year's unusually high death toll, said experts.

Dengue exists as four distinct serotypes (closely related forms of the virus).

Immunity from infection with one serotype may provide lifelong protection from that serotype but is only partially protective against the others. A second-time infection with a different serotype increases the infection's severity and may lead to fatality, explained the experts.

Besides, the country's temperature remains favourable for breeding of Aedes mosquitoes.

Climate change, resulting in warm temperatures and

unusual rainfall patterns have also contributed to increased transmission of dengue over the last decade.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, an associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said, "Second-time dengue infections with different variants and delayed hospitalisation are major contributors to this year's spike in deaths."

He stressed the need for immediate hospitalisation if the patients experience severe stomach aches, breathing difficulties, weakness, bleeding from gums or nose, and vomiting.

"If a patient is not hospitalised within 48 hours of showing these symptoms, they may go into dengue shock syndrome," said Nazmul.

There are two types of dengue shocks - compensated shocks and decompensated shocks.

"If a patient is hospitalised

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Doesn't matter if someone observes polls or not: minister

UNB, Ctg

Information Minister

H a s a n

M a h m u d

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"The election is ours. All the elections that had already been held, including local government elections, were very free and fair. It doesn't matter if someone observed our election or not," he said.

The minister said this while exchanging views with journalists on contemporary issues at the YNT Center on Dewanji Pukur Lane in Chattogram.

"Do foreign observers go to India when elections are held?" he asked. "Is there so much talk about it? Or when elections are held in different countries of Europe, do we send observers from our country or any other countries? We don't."

"The EU has said it will send a small-scale observer team. They also mentioned their budget shortfall in the letter. Whether the EU observer comes in any form or not, we have election monitoring forums in our country, and observers from various Saarc countries will come to monitor the election," he said.

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His legacy must be kept alive  
Speakers on journo Quamrul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday stressed the need to continue the legacy left behind by eminent journalist Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, a pioneer in environmental journalism who played a pivotal role as climate negotiator in global platforms.

They were speaking at an event organised by Forum for Environmental Journalists Bangladesh at Jatiya Press Club.

Eminent economist Wahiduzzman Mahmud, also a teacher of Quamrul Islam, said Quamrul had a knack and tendency to do journalism with a focus on the environment from the beginning.

"There was a huge deluge in 1988 that saw international experts visiting Bangladesh and advising to channel the water flowing downstream to the Bengal delta from the Himalayas to Bay of Bengal, which we opposed. Quamrul did an excellent report on that," he said. Wahiduzzman Mahmud stated that Quamrul earned greater recognition in the worldwide arena than he did in the country, emphasising the importance of preserving his legacy.

Shyamal Dutta, editor of Bhorer Kagoj, said he never expected Quamrul to die so soon, adding that the heights Quamrul reached in environmental journalism are worth following.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said Quamrul was one of the rare figures who helped the environmental discourse to take centre stage. "He had an immense knowledge on environment and climate change affairs. Whenever we sought help on any information, he used to deliver it right away," she observed.

Rizwana said after Quamrul, the country

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**Quamrul Islam was one of the rare figures who helped the environmental discourse take centre-stage.**

SYEDA RIZWANA HASAN  
Chief Executive of Bela

President seeks Vietnam investment

UNB, Dhaka

President

Mohammed

Shahabuddin

yesterday

urged

Vietnamese

companies

to invest in

Bangladesh,

particularly in

the special

economic zone.

The president made this call when the visiting President of the National Assembly of Vietnam Vuong Dinh Hue called on him at Bangabhaban.

President's press secretary Joyanal Abedin briefed reporters afterwards. The president urged Vietnam to import world-class products including medicines, ready-made garments, leather goods, ceramics from Bangladesh.



A local wholesaler fills multiple oil barrels with kerosene, stocking up in fear of rising prices. Storing such massive amounts of flammable substances on an open road is illegal and can be dangerous. The photo was taken in Tejaon colony bazar recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Trafficker held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion personnel have arrested a man on charge of trafficking a woman to Malaysia. A team of Rab-4 arrested Rubel, 29, on Thursday after family of the victim filed a case with Pallabi Police Station, said a press release.

Rubel, along with others, sent the woman to Malaysia on August 27 under false promises of a well-paying job at a shopping mall.

Instead, some people in Malaysia confined the woman to a room, sexually abused her and forced her into prostitution, the victim recently informed her family over the phone.

As the family members requested Rubel to bring her back home, he demanded Tk 6 lakh for it, threatening to sell her elsewhere otherwise.

'Implement 2018 election manifesto'  
Oikya Parishad starts hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad started a 48-hour hunger strike programme yesterday morning, demanding implementation of promises made by the ruling Awami League in the previous election manifesto.

The protest programme started around 6:00am at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka.

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