



DENGUE OUTBREAK

Dhaka saw most deaths this season

65pc of the victims from the district, shows DGHS data

DIPAN NANDY

A staggering 65 percent of the deaths from dengue this year were in Dhaka district, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Health officials say many patients from outside Dhaka are being sent to the capital due to a lack of treatment facilities for critical dengue patients. In many cases, those patients cannot be saved.

According to data of the DGHS, 15 more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday, bringing the total number of deaths from the virus to 943 this year.

Of the 943, at least 617 patients (65.42 percent) died in Dhaka and the rest 326 (34.58 percent) in other districts.

Asked why Dhaka saw more deaths than other districts, Md Niyatuzzaman, director of Mugda General Hospital, said dengue infections have been prevalent among the residents of the capital and that's why deaths are high here.

"Most of the patients from outside Dhaka arrive in the capital in critical condition. If they die, their deaths are recorded in the city. This is another reason for the high mortality rate in Dhaka," he told The Daily Star.

Khalilur Rahman, director of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said many patients from outside

DENGUE CASES AND DEATHS		
Figures until September 26		
DIVISION	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
Dhaka	110,889	690
Chattogram	27,983	80
Rajshahi	7,995	17
Khulna	13,419	41
Barishal	23,160	97
Sylhet	1,170	1
Rangpur	3,799	6
Mymensingh	5,466	11

SOURCE: DGHS

Dhaka come here with dengue shock syndrome and they need ICU support.

"Their trips to Dhaka take a lot of time and they don't receive proper treatment on the way. As a result, many of them die on the way to hospitals or within a few hours after getting admitted. We don't get enough time to treat them," he said.

A total of 3,123 patients were admitted to hospitals across the country in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. Of them, 774 admissions were logged in Dhaka and 2,349 outside Dhaka.

As of yesterday, a total of 1,93,881 dengue patients have been admitted to hospitals this year. Among them, 80,490 were admitted to hospitals in the capital, and 1,13,391 to hospitals outside Dhaka.

Till September 25, the highest monthly deaths were logged in August with 342 fatalities. With yesterday's 15 deaths, September's death toll is now 350.

Meanwhile, a mobile court sealed off Deep General Hospital in Savar's Sreepur bus stand area yesterday afternoon and fined it Tk 50,000 for different irregularities, including charging patients extra for dengue tests, reports our Savar correspondent.

Power generation capacity to rise 4,817MW this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's power generation capacity will rise by 4,817 megawatts by this year, thanks to new power plants, says a report of the energy and power ministry.

By 2027, 13 power plants that are being constructed now will raise the country's power generation capacity by 10,754MW, said the report submitted yesterday to the parliamentary standing committee on power, energy and mineral resources.

The existing plants have a total capacity of 23,871MW electricity and they produced the highest 15,648MW on April 19. However, the country saw power outages that day because there was demand for more.

The second unit of Rampal power plant, second unit of Banshkhali power plant, first unit of Matarbari Ultra Super Critical Power Plant, Sreepur 150MW power plant, Summit Meghnaghat Power Plant-2, Unique Meghnaghat Power Plant, and Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited will begin commercial operation by this year, says the report.

Construction of the power plant in Sreepur has made 74.43 percent progress while the rest are almost complete.

One unit of Chattogram's 1,224MW Banshkhali power plant owned by SS Power Limited, a subsidiary of S Alam group, started commercial operation on September 18. Bangladesh Power Development Board is likely to ask the plant authorities to begin operating the second unit by the last week of October.



Hawkers have taken over the rickshaw lane of this road in the capital's Gulistan, forcing the three-wheelers on to the fast lane. Consequently, vehicles getting off the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover, *not in picture*, get stuck in tailbacks. The photo was taken near Sergeant Ahad Police Box on Sunday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Karabakh exodus grows after offensive

Over 19,000 Armenians flee the breakaway region; fuel depot blast kills 20

AFP, Lachin Corridor

Thousands more Armenian refugees fled Nagorno-Karabakh yesterday as officials in Azerbaijan's war-scarred separatist statelet raised the death toll from a fuel blast to 20.

The number of deaths from Monday's disaster threatened to grow much higher because dozens were being treated in critical condition and many remained unaccounted for.

Most of the victims were stocking up on fuel for the trip down the so-called Lachin Corridor connecting the impoverished and historically disputed region with Armenia.

Yerevan has warned of possible "ethnic cleansing" by Azerbaijan – a close ally of Armenia's arch-nemesis Turkey – after Baku claimed full control of the region in a lightning offensive last week.

Armenians, mostly Christian, and Azerbaijanis, mostly Muslim, have fought two wars over the mountainous

Azerbaijani border guards seek 'war crime' suspects in the sea of refugees.

territory since the Soviet Union's 1991 collapse that has claimed tens of thousands of lives.

The area is now populated by up to 120,000 ethnic Armenians but is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan.

Armenia said yesterday that more than 19,000 refugees had fled since the first group arrived in the country on Sunday. Azerbaijani border guards sought out "war crime" suspects in the sea of refugees.

Meanwhile, the United States called on Azerbaijan to protect civilians and let in aid. An AFP team along the Lachin Corridor saw hundreds of cars piled high with belongings moving slowly along the jam-packed road.

Some of the vehicles crept along on flat tyres and many people simply walked past the last Azerbaijani checkpoint. The influx overwhelmed the border town of Goris – the first port of call for most families.

AIIB to provide \$4.5 billion to Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will provide \$4.5 billion to Bangladesh in the next five years as Bangladesh seeks softer terms and conditions to facilitate climate-resilient infrastructure in the country.

The assurance came at the 8th annual meeting of the AIIB that took place on September 25 and 26 at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt, according to a finance ministry press release yesterday.

Sharifa Khan, secretary of the Economic Relation Division, led the Bangladeshi side in the meeting.

The \$4.5 billion loan will help finance various projects including climate-resilient infrastructure in the country, the press release said.

The AIIB has so far provided a total of \$3.27 billion in loans for 18 projects to Bangladesh after making its first investment in 2016 in a power sector project.

On the sidelines of the annual meeting, the Bangladesh delegation met with Urjit Patel, AIIB's vice-president for Investment Operations (Region 1) where he oversees all sovereign and non-sovereign operations in South Asia, the Pacific Islands and South East Asia.

At the meeting, Khan called for making AIIB's loan conditions more lenient given the current reality.

At present, loans from AIIB come at market-based rates, which used to be manageable thanks to the LIBOR being around 1.5 percent. LIBOR has been replaced by SOFR from July 1 and SOFR is now upwards of 5 percent.

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US VISA POLICY

It aims to ensure free, fair polls in Bangladesh

Says US State Dept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US State Department reiterated that the intention of the US visa policy announced for Bangladesh was not to take a side in the country's election but to ensure or support free, fair, and peaceful national polls in Bangladesh.

"I will say that, as we noted when we announced these new visa restrictions on Friday, they include members of law enforcement, the ruling party, and the political opposition," said State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller at a regular press briefing at the State Department in Washington on Monday.

He avoided making any comment when asked about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, saying

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Biden joins picket line of autoworkers on strike

REUTERS, Belleville

President Joe Biden yesterday joined a picket line with striking autoworkers in Michigan, backing their call for a 40 percent pay raise and telling them they deserve a "lot more" than they are getting.

Biden's appearance, the first visit by a US president to striking workers in modern history, comes a day before Donald Trump, the Republican front-runner for president, will speak to auto workers in Michigan. The rare back-to-back events highlight the importance of union support in the 2024 presidential election, even though unions represent a tiny fraction of US workers.

Democrat Biden traveled to Belleville, Michigan to join the picketers.



Firefighters extinguish burning trucks damaged during a Russian drone attack, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, at a compound of a port on Danube river in Odesa region, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

India's Moon lander, rover fail to 'wake up'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

India's groundbreaking Moon lander and rover that made history last month after becoming the first spacecraft to soft land on the lunar south pole have not "woken up" after they were put into hibernation.

Indian space agency Isro has so far failed to re-establish communication with both the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover, that were part of India's path-breaking Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Isro on Friday said "no signals have been received" from Vikram and Pragyan, raising concerns about the mission's further exploration of the lunar surface.

"Efforts have been made to establish communication with the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover to ascertain their wake-up condition," the Indian space agency said.

India made history on 23 August with its groundbreaking soft landing on the Moon's south pole, with the mission crossing another milestone just hours later once the rover exited the lander module to explore the lunar surface.

