



A long tailback was seen on the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital yesterday evening, ahead of the two-day countrywide blockade starting today.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DENGUE CASES IN DHAKA

One lakh and counting

DIPAN NANDY

Dengue cases in Dhaka this year crossed one lakh on November 3, ticking off another grim landmark.

To put things in perspective, there were 51,810 dengue cases in the capital in 2019, 23,617 in 2021, and 39,220 in 2022. The total number of dengue cases in Dhaka in all these three years combined was 1,14,647 whereas, until yesterday, the total number of cases in the capital this year alone stands at 1,00,717.

Meanwhile, Dhaka saw 826 dengue related deaths this year.

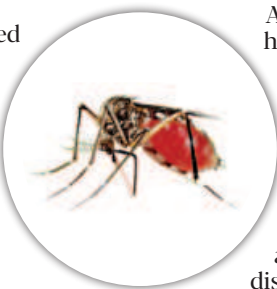
There is no official record of dengue cases and deaths for 2020 due to the pandemic.

According to DGHS data, currently 1,837 patients are undergoing treatment in the capital.

However, DGHS compiles dengue data based on hospital admissions.

Many people come to the capital's hospitals from outside due to a lack of medical facilities elsewhere, and in the process, get counted as patients from Dhaka. Meaning, if someone from Barishal takes admission at a Dhaka hospital, they will be counted as a dengue patient from the capital.

Director of Mugda General Hospital Md Niyatuzzaman and director of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital Khalilur Rahman echoed the same.



However, both these experts have said this doesn't mean dengue is not a threat in the capital, as the mosquito-borne disease is still mostly prevalent in Dhaka.

They advised the government to start destroying Aedes breeding sources immediately to control dengue next year.

Meanwhile, at least 13 more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday.

At least 1,638 dengue patients were hospitalised in the 24-hour period, according to data from the DGHS.

Dengue has so far claimed at least 1,393 lives this year and nearly 2,77,801 were infected, making this the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

The daily dengue bulletin from the DGHS is based on data from only 57 public and private hospitals in Dhaka and 81 district- and division-level hospitals.

But as many as 16,000 public and private hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres and blood banks across the country are providing dengue care, meaning the actual number of cases and deaths might be higher than what is being reported.

Dengue is a reportable disease in other countries, meaning data on every single dengue patient must be recorded, according to Manjur A Chowdhury, a former president of Zoological Society of Bangladesh.

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PM leaves for Saudi Arabia today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today to attend the international conference on "Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment" in Jeddah.

The Kingdom in coordination with the general secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will host the conference from November 6 to 8.

A commercial flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the PM and her entourage will depart Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 9:00am local time, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told the news agency.

She will reach Prince Mohammad Bin Abdul Aziz International Airport in Madina around 1:30pm local time.

In the evening, the prime minister will offer Fateha at the Rawza Mubarak of the Prophet (PBUH).

On Monday, Hasina will leave Madina for Jeddah by train. In the evening, she will attend the conference and deliver a speech.

She will also have meetings with OIC senior officials and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan.

She will also attend the

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The container of a truck is kept on the side of a road in the capital's Postogola for repair works. As a result, people are forced to walk on the road amid traffic. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

5 of a family burnt in gas explosion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nganj

Five members of a family sustained burn injuries following an explosion from a "gas line leak" at Aukoba Bazar in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj early yesterday.

The injured are: Hasun Banu, 55, her husband Oli Ahmed, 65, son Omar Faruk, 18, daughter Sahara Begum, 24, and brother Sonauddin, 45.

They are now undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka, said Inspector Bacchu Mia, in-charge of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) police outpost.

Their conditions are critical, he



The building where the explosion took place.

PHOTO: STAR

added.

Hasun is a homemaker while her husband and brother run a

dry fish shop in Gausia market. Their daughter has physical disabilities and their son is a garment worker.

Nure Alam, Hasun's nephew, said she set up a device to increase the flow of gas at the house around two weeks back due to low pressure of gas.

There was an explosion when they were asleep around midnight, he added.

Inspector Mostafizur Rahman, in-charge of Bhulta Police Outpost, who visited the spot, said the explosion took place in a flat on the ground floor of a three-storey building.

He said the explosion may have taken place due to a leak in the gas line.

Maksud Kamal takes charge as 29th VC of DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prof ASM Maksud Kamal officially joined office as the 29th vice-chancellor of Dhaka University yesterday.

Outgoing VC Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman handed over the responsibilities to him at a ceremony at the vice-chancellor's office.

President and also chancellor of the university Md Shahabuddin "temporarily" appointed Prof Maksud, a teacher of Disaster Science and Climate Resilience department, as 29th VC on October 15.

He was appointed as the pro-VC (academic) of the university in 2020.

Maksud Kamal is the founding chairman of his department.

From 2012 to 2020, he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

He joined Dhaka University as a lecturer in 2000 and was promoted as professor in 2010.

Maksud Kamal completed his graduation and post graduation in Geology from Dhaka University.

Later he did his Masters in Applied Engineering Geology from the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, University of Twente, Netherlands.

He received a Doctor of Engineering degree in Earthquake Engineering from Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan in 2004.



Polls as per constitution

Law minister tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The constitution clearly defines how parliamentary election will be held in the country, Law Minister Anisul Huq said today.

"Whatever needs to happen will happen in line with the law and constitution. If we derail [from the constitution], then we will fall behind again," he said.

Anisul was addressing a seminar marking Bangladesh Constitution Day organised by the law ministry at a city hotel.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh on November 4, 1972. It came into effect on December 16 of the same year, according to a BSS report.

Chairing the seminar, the law minister said, whenever Bangladesh derailed from the constitution, the country's rule of law and justice was compromised.

As a result, there was chaos, people's fundamental rights were violated, and the country's overall progress was hampered, he said.

"So, we have to move forward learning the lessons from the past," he further said.

Addressing as chief guest, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said Bangladesh's

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Join polls, stop arson attacks

Momen urges BNP

UNB, Sylhet

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday urged BNP to participate in the upcoming national elections.

"Join the elections, stop arson attacks and destruction of properties," he urged the BNP leadership while talking to reporters after attending a programme in Sylhet.

Momen also urged the party to publicly apologise to the people and expel those involved in recent attacks.

Apart from beating a cop to death, BNP supporters attacked the residences of chief justice and other judges, and torched police outposts and dozens of buses, he said.

The minister said BNP did not even spare on-duty journalists. They attacked and critically injured at least 25 media professionals.