



Strong winds might have blown their umbrella inside out, but both passengers and their rickshaw puller find some relief through laughter even in a moment of inconvenience. Rain and gusts captivated Dhaka as a result of cyclone Midhili, leading to many getting their winter coats out early. However, others were not so lucky and got drenched in drizzle. With launches remaining anchored amid inclement weather, many were forced to travel by boat on the Buriganga. The photos were taken in Dhanmondi, Lalmatia and Sadarghat areas yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON, PRABIR DAS, PALASH KHAN

EC directs ROs to prepare list of polls officials by Nov 22

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission has directed all returning officers to prepare the panel of presiding officers, assistant presiding officers, and polling officers by November 22, ahead of the upcoming national polls.

From this panel, the returning officers themselves will appoint the polling officials who will discharge their duties during the polls slated for January 7.

EC, in a circular issued on Thursday night, asked the 66 returning officers to hold the elections for the 300 seats in line with The Representation of the People Order, 1972.

Returning officers will need to send the panel to the EC within a week after the announcement of the election schedule that took place on November 15.

Through a written notice, heads of all government and non-government offices, institutions, and establishments will have to provide the returning officers with a list of their employees, as the returning officers will choose from them to form a panel of presiding, assistant presiding, and polling officers.

The EC made the decision to appoint people to those positions through returning officers, although



EC INSTRUCTIONS

Prepare polling officials' panel by Nov 22

List of polling centres by Dec 12

Apply for postal ballot by Nov 30

No transfer of field level admin, police official without consultation

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Man found dead in the capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man who went missing since Thursday evening after going out of his Pallabi home was found dead yesterday morning in Dhaka's Mirpur-11 area.

The deceased was identified as Md Tanvir, a resident of the area, said police.

Law enforcers and locals suspect that Tanvir was beaten to death at an abandoned kitchen market in Pallabi.

They also said there were marks of torture in his body and head.

Shahidul Islam, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Pallabi zone), said on information, they recovered the body around 12:30pm.

The body was sent to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College morgue for autopsy, said the DMP assistant commissioner.

Meanwhile, family members told the law enforcers that Tanvir went out of his house around 5:00pm to meet his friends.

The family members said as Tanvir did not return home they tried to get in touch with him but failed to do so.

Shahidul Islam said police are trying to identify and arrest the killers.

Dengue outbreak to LINGER LONGER

Rain caused by Midhili may generate new mosquito breeding grounds, say experts

HELEMUL ALAM

While the country is already grappling with its worst dengue outbreak recorded, the current rainfall due to cyclone Midhili is likely to see the outbreak linger even longer, according to experts.

This year's dengue situation showed signs of some improvement since last month with the approach of winter. The rainfall, however, poses a threat to worsen the situation again as it will provide new breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes.

The country is facing moderate to heavy rainfall due to cyclone Midhili. Highest 176mm rainfall was recorded in Bhola, while Dhaka faced 13mm rainfall till 3:00pm yesterday, said meteorologist Kazi Jebunnesa.

Meanwhile, 11 people died and 956 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning. With the deaths and new cases reported, the total number of dengue deaths rose to 1,539 and total cases 2,99,050 this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

"Mosquitoes remain alive for around 40 days. During this time, if they don't get water, as happens during winter, they would die without being able to lay eggs. But the rains mean mosquitoes will now get water to lay eggs, which in turn will cause the outbreak to linger further for 40 to 50 days," said Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University.

The rain will provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes, he said, adding that it is very important

There is no scope for the authorities to lose focus on mosquito control activities due to the upcoming national election.

GM SAIFUR RAHMAN
Entomologist at National University



to destroy all possible breeding grounds and authorities concerned must take necessary actions in this regard.

GM Saifur Rahman, an entomologist at National University, Bangladesh, said they were assuming a reduction of mosquito breeding in November; however, this rain will increase further breeding.

With winter approaching, the season of culex mosquitoes has started, so authorities concerned will turn their attention to controlling culex mosquitoes. But they will have to keep their focus on Aedes mosquitoes as well, especially outside Dhaka, he said.

There is no scope for the authorities to lose focus on mosquito control activities due to the upcoming national election, he added.

Saifur also said, "Dhaka city residents may develop herd immunity against dengue due to the large number of people infected since 2000. However, the chances of cases increasing outside the capital remain high."

"If Aedes mosquito population is not controlled, there is a risk that a large number of eggs will be laid by the mosquitoes which might be hatched next season and lead to another outbreak."

During the lean period of dengue (November to April), the authorities need to identify active clusters and continue to carry out extensive drives, including source reduction and use of larvicide and insecticide, until the reproductive chain of Aedes mosquitoes is broken, he said.

All parties must stop polls centric violence

Says foreign minister

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said all parties will have to demonstrate willingness and sincerity to stop violence, noting that the election-centric violence is in a declining trend.

"We will not allow anyone to obstruct the polls. We hope all parties will demonstrate sincerity and willingness to stop violence," he told reporters after attending an event in the capital.

Momen said the BNP in the name of peaceful rally attacked innocent people and destroyed properties and set vehicles on fire.

"Their [BNP] key aim was to carry out arson attacks and destruction of properties," Momen said.

Describing Awami League as a pro-election political party, he hoped that BNP will earn maturity and walk towards polls avoiding violence.

"We want to see a model election," he said.

Responding to a question, Momen said the US wants a free and fair election and Bangladesh has a similar commitment.

Unite to stop ongoing conflicts

Hasina urges global community

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said it is time for all to unite as one and demand the end of the conflict going on in Palestine.

"Here, I express my profound concern at the tragic, inhuman existence of the helpless Palestinians in the face of merciless carnage. It is time for all of us to unite as one world and demand an end to the conflict," she said.

The prime minister made the call while addressing the 2nd Voice of the Global South Summit 2023, which is hosted by India on a virtual platform, from her official residence Gono Bhaban.

She said that the theme of the summit, "Together for Everyone's Growth with Everyone's Trust" is most timely as it flags the pressing issue the world faces today, namely, "trust deficit."

"It is the trust deficit among nations and lack of respect for international law that has led to the ongoing war in Europe and the carnage in Palestine," she said.

"Our world is plagued with unbearable poverty, undesirable inequality, intolerable terrorism, and the catastrophic threat of climate change," she said.

In addition, she said, there have now appeared sanctions and counter-sanctions, with new challenges and increasing hardship for the people of the Global South.

"In this critical time, the world must unite as one and strengthen 'Everyone's Trust' to achieve 'Everyone's Growth'," she said.

The PM opined that the Global South is poised to play a pivotal role in shaping our future although it is often vulnerable to various socio-economic challenges.



Shishir Moral, special correspondent of Prothom Alo, receives the "Latifur Rahman award for journalism" from Transcom Group CEO and Managing Director of Mediastar Limited Simeen Rahman while Matir Rahman, editor and publisher of Prothom Alo, looks on. The Bangla daily organised a programme at the Radison Blu in the capital yesterday marking its 25th anniversary.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

