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PHOTO: STAR



Vehicular movement increased in the capital on the first day of the sixth spell of the 48-hour blockade. Awami League's office on Bangabandhu Avenue (left) was relatively quiet yesterday as the sale of nomination forms ended on Tuesday. Meanwhile, BNP's Nayapaltan office remained locked with police personnel on guard.



Bacteria becoming more resistant to antibiotics

Says national AMR surveillance report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Multi-drug resistance in bacteria has increased by 14 percent over the last seven years, and most of them are getting even more resistant to certain antibiotics, said a national AMR (antimicrobial resistance) surveillance report.

The group of MDR bacteria is getting bigger due to the increasing resistance, causing serious public health concerns, it added.

MDR refers to a bacterium that becomes resistant to at least one drug from three or more groups of antibiotics. As per the report, MDR resistance, which was at 71 percent in 2017, had risen to 82 percent by June this year. Over time, most bacteria are developing increasing resistance to antibiotics, particularly the frequently used ones.

Prof Zakir Hossain Habib, chief scientific officer of IEDCR and member secretary of AMR Surveillance Sectoral Working Group

(Human Health), presented the findings of the National AMR Surveillance 2023 during a programme yesterday at IEDCR, marking World AMR Awareness Week.

While the report notes a significant difference in bacteria resistance between outpatient departments and indoors, the microorganisms isolated from ICUs show the least effectiveness.

Multi-drug resistance, which was at 71 percent in 2017, had risen to 82 percent by June this year. Over time, most bacteria are developing increasing resistance to antibiotics, particularly the frequently used ones.

Acinetobacter, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Klebsiella pneumoniae, and Staphylococcus aureus are among the bacteria that are highly antibiotic-resistant.

The report blamed repeated and excessive use of medicine for this situation.

Ceftriaxone and Cefixime are listed as most frequently used antibiotics that are experiencing a decrease in effectiveness, and bacterial resistance against both of them is on the rise, said the report.

Md Jahangir Alam, secretary of health services division at the health ministry, said, "Doctors need to be more aware

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FIRST DAY OF 48-HOUR BLOCKADE

Dhaka sees more traffic

Bus torched in capital, fire breaks out in train at Sylhet station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic movement increased across the capital yesterday, on the first day of the sixth spell of the 48-hour blockade called by BNP and its allies to protest the schedule for the 12th parliamentary elections.

There were more public transports on the streets yesterday. However, only a handful of inter-district buses left the capital.

Besides, sporadic traffic congestion was seen in some major points, including Banglamotor, Farmgate, Bijoy Sarani, Mohakhali, Shahbagh, Elephant Road, Science Lab, Jigatola, Dhanmondi, Moghbazar, Sattrasta, Banani, Uttara Jashimuddin, and Abdullahpur.

"It took me about 40 minutes to commute from Mohakhali to Shahbagh, which is much longer than the previous blockade days," said Kader Hossain, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver.

Kader had to wait for about 10 minutes at the Bijoy Sarani intersection, and another eight minutes at the Karwan Bazar intersection during his commute.

ARSON ATTACKS

Meanwhile, arsonists torched a passenger bus in the Asad Gate area around 2:20pm yesterday. Following the incident, police arrested one Mamun from the spot.

"Mamun was arrested while trying to flee the spot," said Jahangir Alam, additional deputy commissioner (traffic) of Tejgaon zone.

Police also arrested Shamim Mahmud, joint convener of Dhaka South City unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, from Mugda on Tuesday for allegedly leading the violence in Paltan and attack on Rajarbagh police hospital during BNP's October 28 rally, Mahid Uddin, additional commissioner (crime and office) of DMP, told reporters at DMP media centre yesterday.

Shamim had planned the moves on October 26 and video footage proved his direct involvement in the October 28 incidents, he added.

"Following the directive of a central BNP leader, Shamim collected a bag from one Maruf from Dania footbridge the day before the rally to hand it over to one Riyad

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11 BNP men sentenced to jail in 2013 explosives case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced 11 BNP leaders and activists to seven years' rigorous imprisonment each in a case filed under Explosive Substances Act in 2013.

They are Dhaka north Jubo Dal unit's former president SM Jahangir, SI Tutul, Abdul Awal, Mohammad Monir Hossain, Shahadat Hossain, Monir Hossain, Nasim Ahmed Apu, Ashrafur Islam, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Engineer Fakhrul Islam, and Md Shahin.

Judge Mamunur Rahman Siddiqui handed down the sentence in presence of Jahangir. The court issued conviction arrests against the other 10, who are absconding.

As per the case statement, the accused gathered near Azampur Rail Gate area in Uttara and blasted crude bombs during a blockade called by BNP-led alliance on November 26, 2013.

Say no to war to save the world

PM tells G20 Leaders Summit

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the world should firmly say "no" to all wars and conflicts to protect humanity.

She made the remarks while addressing the "G20 Leaders' Summit 2023" held in New Delhi on a virtual platform from Gono Bhaban.

The summit's theme – "One Earth, One Family, One Future" – will continue to inspire all to care for, protect, and make the earth a better place, she said.

She said the current war in Europe with sanctions and counter sanctions has taken a worldwide human and economic toll.

She said, "We have been witnessing in Palestine a merciless, genocidal slaughter of thousands. I urge all the esteemed world leaders present at today's summit to call for an instant ceasefire in Gaza and for an immediate, unhindered flow of humanitarian relief," she said.

She also drew the attention of all to Bangladesh and India's excellent relations, recognised as a "role model" of "neighbourhood diplomacy."

Hasina said it has become the duty of all to ensure the well-being of everyone in the global family. "I seek your earnest support for the repatriation of more than a million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals [Rohingyas] from Bangladesh to Myanmar," she said.

Indian PM Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau, among others, spoke at the summit.



Those who were worried as to who will participate [in the elections] and who won't... There's nothing to worry... flowers have started to bloom... More flowers will bloom. Hundreds of flowers will bloom before the nomination submission deadline.

OBABDUL QUADER
Awami League General Secretary



The prime minister has deployed her agencies in the field to form a party. Many leaders are being intimidated to join the AL's King's Party. An abnormal situation has been created in a very planned way for a one-sided poll.

RUHUL KABIR RIZVI
BNP Senior Joint Secretary

MRT police still not a separate unit

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Despite the prime minister's directive to form a dedicated police unit to ensure metro rail's security, the Metro Rail (MRT) Police has gained approval to operate only as a wing of Police Headquarters.

On October 31, 2019, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued the directive, and posts for MRT police were created in May this year, but it was sanctioned as a wing of PHQ instead.

"We are the sole operational unit to ensure the security of metro rail, functioning as a PHQ wing," Jehadul Kabir, deputy inspector general of MRT police wing, told The Daily Star yesterday.

PHQ sent a proposal to the home ministry to create a separate police unit for metro rail, demanding a manpower of 1,039 officials, and the ministry approved 809 people. Then the proposal got approved

as a "separate police unit" from the public administration and finance ministries with a manpower of 357 people.

Ultimately, the proposal got final approval from the secretary committee as a police wing with a manpower of 231 members, according to sources.

DIG Jehadul said, "We got to know that we got approval as a wing of PHQ, although it was supposed to be an operational unit."

"We wanted to investigate and prosecute criminal offences taking place in metro rail areas, but now it's not possible since we are working as a wing," he said.

Besides, the manpower is inadequate. The proposal was approved with a manpower of only three members per station, he said.

"But in reality, we are facing difficulties to tackle the pressure of huge numbers of

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Initially set to function an independent unit, MRT police, struggling amid manpower crisis, currently serves as a wing under Police Headquarters. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Cops want CCTV, scanners for metro stations

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

In a bid to enhance security measures for the metro rail, the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) police wing has proposed the installation of luggage scanners at all stations.

A letter outlining the proposal was submitted to the Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) last month.

Besides, MRT police also requested to install CCTV cameras outside the stations to ensure full-proof security during the ongoing blockade and strike. Currently, CCTVs are only inside stations.

The matter of installing scanners and CCTV was also discussed during a safety review meeting on Tuesday.

Jehadul Kabir, deputy inspector general (DIG) of MRT police wing, confirmed the developments to The Daily Star yesterday.

He emphasised the increasing number of individuals opting for metro rail travel, many of whom carry

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