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Cancer increasing in Bangladesh, may double in 2050

Finds WHO study

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The number of cancer patients is steadily increasing in Bangladesh, and in the year 2050, the country may record more than double the new cases of 2022, according to a World Health Organization report.

The report was prepared based on data from 185 countries and 36 types of cancers. Regarding Bangladesh, it says oesophagus, lip, oral cavity and lung cancers are the most common.

"Consumption of adulterated and junk food, sedentary lifestyle, pollution, and tobacco and alcohol use are the key causes of the rising number of cancer cases in Bangladesh. Hyper acidity is common in both men and women. That is why instances of oesophagus cancer are rising," Mollah Obayedullah Baki, former president of Bangladesh Cancer Society, told The

Daily Star yesterday.

Experts say late screening raises the risk of fatalities in the country.

The WHO also predicts that in 2050 the number of new cancer cases across the world will reach 35 million, about 77 percent higher than the figure in 2022. Almost one in five people develop cancer in their lifetimes, with one in nine men and one in 12 women dying from the disease, the report adds.

The new WHO data is based on a survey conducted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

The study identified tobacco, alcohol, obesity, and air pollution as key factors behind the predicted rise globally.

Physicians in the country say the prevalence of lung cancer is high among men while breast and cervical

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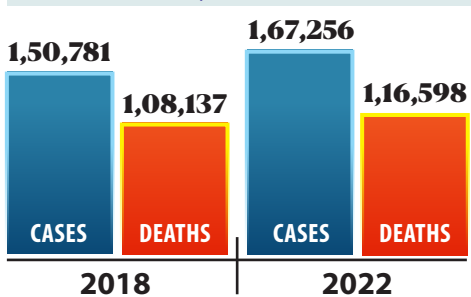
A boat loaded with heaps of vegetables makes its way to Dhaka city via the Turag, a key trade route that is suffering from neglect and pollution. The photo was taken in Basila yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

"Consumption of adulterated and junk food, sedentary lifestyle, tobacco and alcohol use are the key causes of the rising number of cancer cases in Bangladesh."

MOLLAH OBAYEDULLAH BAKI
former president of Bangladesh Cancer Society

CANCER CASES, DEATHS ON THE RISE

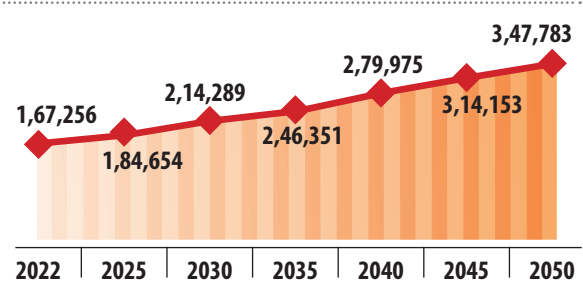


CANCER TYPE	2018	2022
Oesophagus	13.9%	15.1%
Lip, oral cavity	8.9%	9.6%
Breast	8.5%	7.8%
Lung	8.2%	7.8%
Cervix uteri	5.4%	5.8%
Others	55.1%	54%



Top 4 types of cancers in Bangladesh are oesophagus; lip, oral cavity; breast and lung.

WHO predicts that in the year 2050 Bangladesh will have 347,783 new cancer cases, more than double the new cases recorded in 2022.



SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

Bangladesh-Myanmar border eerily quiet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

People living along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border stretching from Bandarban's Naikhongchhari to Cox's Bazar's Teknaf are in constant fear even though there have been no gunfire or mortar explosions on the other side of the border yesterday.

Locals fear another round of violent clash between the Myanmar military junta and the Arakan Army, an armed ethnic group fighting as part of an alliance.

The last heavy gun battle along the border in Ghumdhum of Naikhongchhari upazila took place between the two parties for three hours till 6:00am on Thursday.

Later that afternoon, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered one mortar shell from a cropland in Tambru of Ghumdhum union.

For the past several days, hundreds of people who live near the zero line along the border in Ghumdhum have been staying elsewhere out of fear.

No gunshots or mortar shell explosions have been heard since Thursday morning, said AKM Jahangir Aziz, chairman of the Ghumdhum Union Parishad.

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TRAFFICKING TO MALAYSIA

Victims made to walk thru jungles, wade canals

Traffickers use route involving four countries

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A so-called broker in Dhaka promised Rasal Miah he would be taken to Malaysia and given a job at a construction site.

Rasal was assured of being flown to Malaysia via Vietnam. Convinced by the broker's words, the 30-year-old from Madaripur's Shibchar struck a Tk 4 lakh deal with broker Rafiq Kha, owner of a travel agency in Dhaka.

Rasal boarded a plane at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on December 17 last year. Three days later, he informed his wife Shahida Akhter over the phone that he was detained in Thailand, said Shahida.

He along with 14 other Bangladeshi job seekers ended up in jail in Thailand's southern province Songkhla on December 20 after immigration police arrested them while they were being taken to Malaysia border on a truck.

Rasal and nine others returned to Bangladesh on January 31 after paying fines imposed by a

Thai court.

"I was taken to Vietnam via Kolkata. Then the broker's men arranged Cambodian visas for us. We were forced to travel to Cambodia and sneak into Thailand by walking for hours through a dense forest and wading through shoulder-deep water in some canals," Rasal told this correspondent on Thursday.

"We were forced to travel to Cambodia and sneak into Thailand by walking for hours through a deep forest and wading through shoulder-deep water in some canals."

RASAL MIAH
Victim of human trafficking

The 15 Bangladeshis were then forced to get on a small truck that drove for 22 hours before being intercepted by immigration police 30km off Malaysian border, Rasal said.

He said he had been in Malaysia for 11 years where he worked as a welding technician. He was desperate to return to the Southeast Asian country as he was struggling to run his four-member family.

Speaking to The Daily Star recently, Jannat Begum, mother of another arrestee, said, "I fell sick after hearing about my son's arrest in Thailand."

23-year-old Md Abu Sazzat from Cox's Bazar, said, "I fell sick after hearing about my son's arrest in Thailand."

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Family preparing for qulkhwani now, not wedding

A CORRESPONDENT, Rajbari

The family was supposed to hold a joint wedding reception for two of the three brothers at their home in Khankanapur area of Rajbari town.

But grieving family members and friends were making preparations for qulkhani yesterday.

Saiful Islam, 27, one of the brothers about to get married, and his elder brother Monirul Islam, 32, died early Thursday when their motorcycle was hit by a truck on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Goalanda upazila of the district.

Monirul worked at a garment factory in Gazipur and Saiful at a project of the Youth Development Department of Rajbari.

After the 'Gaye Holud' programme on Wednesday, Saiful went to Daulatdia ferry terminal with his bike to receive Monirul, who was heading home from Gazipur.

The crash happened when the brothers were going towards Rajbari.

At their home yesterday, the bamboo structures made for the wedding celebrations were still there. Around 500 people were invited to attend the wedding ceremony.

Now their father Moksed Sardar was talking to his relatives about the preparation for the Kulkhani.

"My sons are gone. The three brothers were close to each other. Please bring them back..." Moksed lamented.

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JOY OF READING...A little girl is delighted as she discovers for the first time a pop-up book for children while exploring the stalls at the Children's Square of the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela near the Ramna Kali Mandir gate yesterday afternoon during the "Shishu Prohor" or children's hours.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Woman, two daughters found dead at home

Husband was bleeding from throat at scene

STAR REPORT

A mother and her two daughters were found dead in their home in Nilphamari Sadar upazila yesterday morning while the father was at the scene bleeding profusely from his throat.

Their relative and neighbour Shamsul Islam Jaba, 65, said, "We heard moans from Ashiqur's [Ashiqur Rahman Mollah] home around 9:00am."

"We rushed there and saw Ashiqur bleeding from his throat. The bodies of his wife [Tahura Begum, 35] and two daughters [Ayesha Akhtar, 11, and seven-year-old Tarin] were found in a room," Jaba told The Daily Star.

"We took Ashiqur to Nilphamari General Hospital. As his condition was critical, he was referred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital."

Police and their relatives suspect that the husband tried to take his life by slitting his throat after killing his wife and children at their home in Nagar Daroyanibandar Bazar village.

Ashiqur, 52, who is involved in food grain and furniture trades, incurred huge losses over the last few years.

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