



## Eid vacation puts Dhaka at dengue risk

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## Sal forest shrinking fast

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## Taiwan 'will not bow' to China's pressure: Lai

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## Spotlight on Messi, Endrick in Copa America

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# 1.6m marooned in Sylhet flood

Major rivers swell amid heavy downpour

DWOHA CHOWDHURY and MINTU DESHWARA

Eid has not brought joy to many in the Sylhet region as homes of more than 1.6 million people were flooded and nearly 30,000 had to move to shelter centres.

Many families with children and elderly left their inundated homes and took shelter on roads with nothing but plastic sheets to protect them from rain.

"Flood water entered my home the night before the Eid. As the water rose, I left the earthen hut with my grandchildren and waded through knee-deep water to this road," 60-year-old Mosammat Begum, who was by the Sylhet-Bhologanj road in Tukerbazar area, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Her three grandchildren, aged less than 10, were with her under a shed the family built with plastic sheets and sticks by the road.

"We can see our hut from here. There is chest-high water inside. It may collapse anytime. Our food and belongings are

already damaged," said the woman whose son is a farm worker.

Many families were seen by the side of roads in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Habiganj over the last two days.

On Sylhet-Tamabil and Sylhet-Bhologanj roads, people took shelter on empty trucks and lorries.

In vast areas and hundreds of inundated villages, dinghies are the only means to go from one place to another in monsoon.

Since many poor families do not have one, they are not able to move to government shelters.

Samad Ahmed, a farmer of Meghargao area in Sylhet's Companiganj, said he, his wife and children went to a primary school near their village the day before Eid, but it was already overcrowded.

"Then we went to a kitchen market where a shopkeeper let us stay in his shop," he said.

In Sylhet district, almost 75 percent of areas, including 23 wards of the city and 1,548 villages in 13 upazilas, have been

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Heavy rains and onrush of water from upstream have flooded most of the areas of Sylhet city. This intersection in the city's Taltala area has gone under water, affecting people and businesses alike. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

# Air pollution caused most deaths in 2021

2.36 lakh people died in Bangladesh, says global study; children under 5 years particularly vulnerable

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Air pollution has become the leading cause of death in Bangladesh, outpacing fatalities from high blood pressure, poor diet and tobacco use, found a new study.

In 2021, at least 236,000 lives were lost in Bangladesh due to air pollution, according to the fifth edition of the State of Global Air report, which was released yesterday.

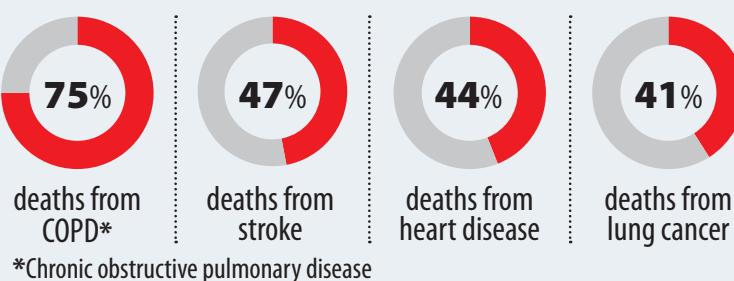
In contrast, there were 200,000 deaths linked to high blood pressure, 130,100 deaths linked to tobacco use and 130,400 deaths linked to poor diet.

Children in Bangladesh are particularly vulnerable to air pollution: the country ranked fifth globally in 2021 in the total number of deaths among children under the age of five due to air pollution.

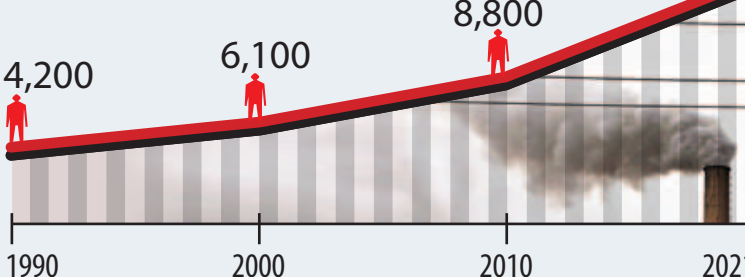
As many as 19,000 children under five years old died due to air pollution, said the report, which was produced by the State of Global Air Initiative, a collaboration between the Health Effects Institute (HEI) and

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## AIR POLLUTION IN BANGLADESH LINKED TO



## NUMBER OF DEATHS LINKED TO OZONE EXPOSURE



## SCORCHING HEAT

# Hajj death toll surges past 900

AFP, Riyadh

Friends and family searched for missing hajj pilgrims yesterday as the death toll at the annual rituals, which were carried out in scorching heat, surged past 900.

Relatives scoured hospitals and pleaded online for news, fearing the worst after temperatures hit 51.8 degrees Celsius (125 Fahrenheit) in Makkah, Islam's holiest city, on Monday.

About 1.8 million people from all over the world, many old and infirm, took part in the days-long, mostly outdoor pilgrimage, held this year during the Saudi summer.

An Arab diplomat told AFP that deaths among Egyptians alone had jumped to "at least 600", from more than 300 a day earlier, mostly from the unforgiving heat.

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Workers unloading hilsa from a boat at the wholesale fish market in Barishal city's Port Road area yesterday morning. The fish, caught from the Meghna river, was sold for Tk 20,000 to Tk 40,000 per maund, depending on size and quality.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## MP AZIM MURDER AL leader Mintu assured plotter of blood money Says DB report to court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Saidul Karim Mintu, general secretary of Jhenaidah Awami League, promised to pay a plotter of lawmaker Anwarul Azim Anar murder, says a forwarding report submitted to a court on June 16.

Mintu's involvement was mentioned

in the confessional statement of key accused Amanullah, according to the report by Assistant Commissioner (DB) Mahfuzur Rahman.

D h a k a Metropolitan Magistrate Anan Sumi sent Mintu to jail after receiving the report.

Kazi Kamal Ahmed Babu, Jhenaidah AL welfare affairs secretary, also told investigators about Mintu's role in the abduction and murder.

Amanullah confessed that Mintu and another key accused Aktaruzzaman talked on WhatsApp in early May about a financial

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Azim

# Landslides kill 9 in Ukhiya camps

Seven of them Rohingyas; refugees being evacuated from hilly areas amid heavy rain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

At least nine people, including seven Rohingyas, were killed in landslides, while another Rohingya died after the wall of his house collapsed on him, due to torrential rain in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya yesterday morning.

Confirming the number of deaths, Mohammad Samsuddouza, additional refugee relief and repatriation commissioner, told The Daily Star that while landslides occurred in several camps, the deaths took place in camps one, eight, nine, 10 and 14.

Around 1.2 million Rohingyas have been living in 33 camps of Ukhiya and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar, most of them since 2017 after fleeing persecution by the Myanmar military.

"So far, 10 bodies have been recovered," Samsuddouza said, adding that two of the dead are locals. He also said refugees living in the risky, hilly areas are being

evacuated.

Atish Chakma, deputy assistant director of Cox's Bazar fire service, said the landslides began early Wednesday and continued till 7:00am.

"We first received a message around 3:00am about several landslides at camp 9. We recovered two bodies there and then conducted another rescue operation at camp 10, where four members of a family were killed around 6:00am. At least 10 people have died."

Hamid Ali, a Rohingya of camp-10, said the hill near his house suddenly collapsed around 6:00am, killing the four family members.

"If tarpaulin was used on the hills slopes, the deaths could have been avoided."

According to sources of the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, one person, whose wall had collapsed, died in camp 1; two were killed

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## PM'S INDIA VISIT

# Defence, Teesta project, port likely to be on agenda

Both sides finalising several deals, MoUs, say diplomatic sources

PORIMOL PALMA and PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's upcoming visit to New Delhi on June 21-22 will focus on some key issues in bilateral relations that have regional geopolitical significance.

Issues such as water, port and defence will be discussed, The Daily Star has learnt from diplomatic sources in Dhaka and New Delhi.

Fresh loans from India under a new framework will also be high on the agenda of the bilateral talks as Bangladesh grapples with a crunch in foreign currency reserves, they said.

Besides, the Myanmar crisis, especially the intense

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## NOTICE

Star Business has not been published today since economic activities are yet to gain momentum following Eid-ul-Azha holidays. It will come out tomorrow.