



In the Lalkhan Bazar area of Chattogram, numerous houses have been constructed along the hillsides, relying on an illegal network of water connections. The residents have to pay up to Tk 1,000 per month to intermediaries for a mere 15 to 20 minutes of water supply each day. The photo of the tangled waterpipe lines was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## 20 hurt as two groups clash at Baitul Mukarram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between the followers of current Imam Waliur Rahman Khan and former Khatib Ruhul Amin at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque before the Jumma prayers yesterday.

The incident took place around 1:00pm when Waliur Rahman was addressing the worshippers, said Moniruzzaman, inspector (investigation) of Paltan Police Station.

According to witnesses, as Waliur was delivering his pre-prayer sermon, Ruhul Amin entered the mosque with his followers and attempted to take the microphone to lead the prayer. This sparked a clash between the two groups, leaving over 20 people injured.

Of the injured, six received primary treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Sub-inspector Masud Alam of DMCH police outpost.

After the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, Ruhul Amin stopped coming to the mosque.

During his absence, the Islamic Foundation assigned Waliur and Mohammad Abdullah to lead the prayers.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Journalist beaten up in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A journalist was beaten up by some miscreants in Narayanganj yesterday afternoon.

Injured Billal Hossain, district correspondent of Desh TV, was given primary treatment at Narayanganj 300-bed hospital, said police.

A man named Md Rubel, 35, was detained in this connection, said Mazharul Islam, sub-inspector of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station.

Arif Hossain, a video journalist of Gazi TV who was along with the victim during the incident, told this newspaper that around 5:30pm, we were sitting at a tea stall on the footpath at Nawab Salimullah Road in the city.

Then some 5-6 people carrying wooden sticks surrounded them and started beating Billal without any argument, saying, "Aren't you a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## ARSON ATTACKS IN KHAGRACHHARI

# 'We are integrationists, not separatists'

Say indigenous students; protests held countrywide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students from indigenous communities protested Thursday's arson attacks in Khagrachhari's Dighinala upazila in different places of the country yesterday.

Demonstrations were held at five public universities where they demanded justice and an end to violence against the country's indigenous people.

In Dhaka, several hundred students blocked the Shahbagh intersection around 11:45am, staging a half-hour sit-in.

The demonstrators, carrying national flags and placards, shouted slogans such as "Withdraw army from the hills."

The placards read different slogans, including "Save the hills and our culture," "Stop land grabbing," "Stop militarisation in CHT," and "Implement the CHT Accord".

Vehicular movement was disrupted during the protest.

Around 10:00am, they held a rally at the Raju Memorial Sculpture on Dhaka University campus, demanding justice for the attacks on indigenous communities in Khagrachhari.

Addressing the rally, Alik Mree, president of Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad, said, "Mafias in the hilly areas opened fire on unarmed people, which goes against the spirit of the July mass uprising. These forces are funded

by taxpayers' money, yet they attack ethnic minorities."

At Jahangirnagar University, the Indigenous Students Association blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway in protest for about 20 minutes, bringing traffic to a standstill until 4:40pm.

Before the protest rally, a march by students from the university's

of Engineering and Technology gathered on Paris Road at RU to protest the attacks.

The rally, which began at 4:30pm, lasted more than two hours with students demanding justice and an end to violence.

Speaking at the rally, Bikash Chakma, a philosophy student at RU, said, "We are not separatists;



Indigenous people demonstrate at Cheragi Pahar intersection in Chattogram.

PHOTO: STAR

Teacher-Student Centre took place, with demonstrators parading through the campus. It concluded with a human chain in front of the Shaheed Minar.

In Rajshahi, several hundred indigenous students from Rajshahi University and Rajshahi University

we are integrationists."

Another student, Tarek Shahriar, added, "After 53 years of independence, it's heartbreaking that the hill tribes still need to declare they are integrationists, not separatists. It's truly tragic."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## DENGUE OUTBREAK

# Hospitals strained as cases spike

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Rajkumar Das stood with his son, Saikat Kumar Das, at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital for over an hour, desperately seeking a bed in the male dengue ward.

Saikat, a tenth grader, had been diagnosed with dengue just that morning.

However, all the beds in the ward were occupied.

"A nurse suggested we try the medicine ward as a bed might be available later," said Rajkumar.

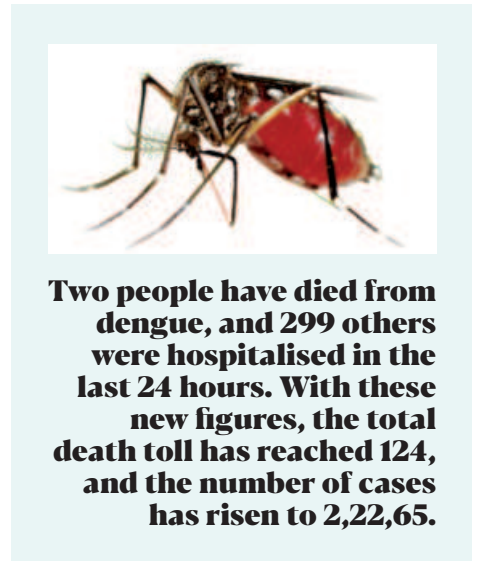
When he approached the medicine ward, a doctor advised them to return on Saturday due to the ongoing bed crisis.

With no other options, Rajkumar left the hospital around 6:00pm, his son still untreated.

This scenario is playing out across many hospitals in Dhaka as a surge in dengue cases overwhelms available resources.

According to a nurse from Suhrawardy's dengue ward, all 57 beds were filled, forcing patients to be redirected to the medicine ward.

The crisis is not limited to Suhrawardy Hospital. Other government hospitals are similarly overwhelmed, struggling to



**Two people have died from dengue, and 299 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours. With these new figures, the total death toll has reached 124, and the number of cases has risen to 2,22,65.**

accommodate the sudden influx of dengue patients.

Data from the Directorate General of Health Services reveals that two people have died from dengue, and 299 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours.

With these new figures, the total death toll has risen to 124. SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## JATIYA NAGORIK COMMITTEE

# A youth platform that seeks new 'political settlement'

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE and SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

The Jatiya Nagorik Committee, formed following the July-August student-led mass uprising, seeks to unite diverse groups in Bangladesh to establish a new political "settlement" for a democratic society.

They also aim to reform the state in line with the aspirations of the student-led mass uprising.

Officially launched on September 8, the 55-member committee is led by Nasir Uddin Patwary as convener, Akhter Hossain as member secretary, and Samanta Sharmeen as spokesperson.

**The uprising brought together students and people from various walks of life. We formed this committee to provide a platform for those wishing to rebuild the nation, regardless of ideology or background.**

SAMANTA SHARMEEN  
Committee Spokesperson

The committee comprises former student leaders, activists, lawyers, journalists, and social media influencers.

Although the platform say they are not a political organisation, they aim to restructure the political landscape through public engagement.

Samanta said, "The uprising brought together students and people from various walks of life. We formed this committee to provide a platform for those wishing to rebuild the nation, regardless of ideology or background."

Meanwhile, Nasir outlined the criteria for earning a membership in the platform, saying those who are committed to the "Bangladesh Cause" are always welcome in the platform.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Metro launches Friday operations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metro Rail launched its Friday service from yesterday. It will run from 3:30pm to 9:40pm on Fridays, confirmed Khondaker Ehteshamul Kabir, company secretary of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL).

"We launched the services from the Uttara end at 3:30pm today [yesterday]," Nasir added. DMTCL issued an order in this regard on Tuesday.

On Fridays, trains will leave Uttara North Station for Motijheel between 3:30pm and 9:00pm every Friday.

Trains from Motijheel to Uttara North will be available from 3:50pm to 9:40pm on Fridays.

Besides, the Kazipara station was also opened to public yesterday more than two months after being damaged on July 19 during the quota reform movement.

However, the Mirpur-10 station will remain closed, and authorities have not provided a possible reopening date.

Unidentified people went on a rampage at Mirpur-10 and Kazipara metro stations on July 19 amid the student movement for quota reform, which later turned into a people's uprising and ousted the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

The then Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader had said the reopening of metro stations is not possible within even a year.

Following the ouster of the AL government, metro rail operations resumed on August 25, but the two stations remained closed.

Authorities have prepared the Kazipara station by bringing some equipment from Mirpur-10 station and DMTCL training centre, alongside using some local equipment.



Students formed a human chain in front of the Raju memorial sculpture on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, demanding justice for the killing of Masud Kamal alias Tofazzal. He was beaten to death, allegedly by a group of students, at Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall of DU, the day before. Tofazzal was laid to rest beside his parents and elder brother at his family graveyard in Patharghata upazila, Barguna, yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS