



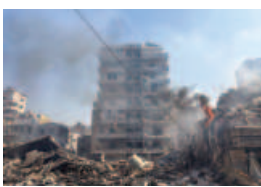
Gouripur Lodge now a neglected landmark

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Hamkura: a river once flowed here

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Israel pounds south Beirut with powerful strikes

P8



Cricket stuck in vicious cycle

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Construction of the 651-metre-long Baraipara bridge on the Nabaganga river in Narail's Kalia upazila has been going on for six and a half years, with the project deadline pushed back four times. Officials of the Roads and Highways Division attributed the delay mainly to design flaws, which have caused the project cost to rise from Tk 65 crore to Tk 135 crore. Officials are hopeful of completing the project by the revised deadline of June 2025. Once the bridge opens to traffic, residents of Kalia upazila will enjoy easier access to Narail town, Bagerhat, Khulna, and Gopalganj. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

JP, student group call off Kakrail rallies

Decisions come after DMP imposes restriction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiyo Party yesterday postponed a rally scheduled for today outside the party's central office at Kakrail in the capital.

The decision came around two hours after Dhaka Metropolitan Police prohibited all meetings, gatherings, processions, and demonstrations at the party's headquarters and surrounding areas for today to prevent a face-off between the party and "Anti-fascist students, workers, and masses".

In a press release last night, JP said it called off today's programme respecting the law. Fresh programmes will be announced later.

The DMP made the decision under section 29 of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ordinance to address the situation and maintain public order, said a notice.

The rally was slated to be held at 11:00am.

Meanwhile, "Anti-fascist students, workers, and masses", a platform comprising mostly the leaders and activists backed by Nurul Haque Nur's Gono Odhikar Parishad, also declared that they would hold counter rallies.

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GANG VIOLENCE Another man killed in Geneva camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another man was killed in a crude bomb attack amid fighting between two armed groups for control over Geneva Camp in the capital's Mohammadpur early yesterday.

This marks the fifth killing in the camp since the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government on August 5. Known as the Bihari Camp, it houses stranded Pakistanis who migrated to the then East Pakistan from the Indian state of Bihar during the partition of 1947.

The latest incident occurred around 3:00am yesterday, shortly after news spread of the arrest of Bhuiyan Sohel, also known as Buniya Sohel.

Hearing the news of Sohel's arrest, followers of Chua Selim attempted to

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Dhaka city running short of buses

Residents compelled to use smaller vehicles contributing to traffic jam

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Dhaka city is experiencing a significant shortage of buses and minibuses, the primary modes of public transport in the capital, causing daily hardship to commuters.

The permissible limit for buses and minibuses on the city's 110 active routes is 7,043. This number is based on the need and route capacity recommended by a government committee.

However, only around 4,500 vehicles -- approximately two-thirds of the required number -- are currently operating on these routes, according to an analysis of data from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

As a result, many commuters are

forced to turn to smaller vehicles like private cars, auto-rickshaws, and rickshaws, exacerbating the capital's chronic traffic jams.

Sohel Mahmud, who works in a private firm, talked about the trouble he faces now while using public buses to commute to his Old Dhaka residence from his Farmgate office.

"Even a year ago, there was a [route No. 3] bus at Farmgate around 9:00pm every 10 minutes. Now, I often have to wait much longer -- sometimes even half an hour," he told this correspondent

recently.

"And the service has also worsened," he said, noting congested and untidy seats as well as reckless driving.

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A total of 4,444 buses and minibuses -- approximately two-thirds of the needed number -- are currently operating in Dhaka.

ONE-STOP CRISIS CENTRE

Conviction in less than 2pc cases

NILIMA JAHAN

The one-stop crisis centres are supposed to provide comprehensive support to women and children victims of violence, offering healthcare, police assistance, legal aid and other services.

But most of the victims, who take support from the centres, or their family members do not file cases. Even when cases are recorded, only a fraction ends in punishments for the accused.

The One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) was opened at Dhaka Medical College Hospital in 2001 and at 13 other medical college hospitals over the next 10 years.

According to data from these 14 facilities, 66,711 women and children took OCC support as of July 2024.

But only 20,914 cases were filed over the instances of violence. After trial proceedings, verdicts have been delivered in 2,392 of the cases and the accused were sentenced in 310, roughly 1.48 percent of the total.

Of the 66,711 women and children who took OCC support, 61 percent reported physical attack, 38 percent

OCC IN 14 MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITALS (2001-2024)

Number of victims seeking support

66,711

Number of cases filed

20,914

Cases that see judgement

2,392

Cases resulting in punishment

310

sexual assault, and 0.82 percent burn injuries.

In the first seven months of this year, 643 victims took support at the 14 OCCs. But only 227 cases were filed. No one has been convicted in any of the 12 verdicts delivered in these cases.

Women rights activist Khushi Kabir says, "Most victims do not file cases because the legal system is far from being women-friendly. Women have to face horrifying conditions at courts. It can take 8-10 years for a case to be resolved, which makes it almost impossible for the complainant to keep fighting, bear the costs, and withstand the social pressures."

OCC employees say the victims often do not seek legal remedy because they are threatened by the perpetrators. Sentencing is rare because of lack of witnesses, out-of-court settlements, and other complications.

According to Ain o Salish Kendra, 1,881 women and children reportedly faced violence in the first nine months of this year.

The OCCs are part of the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women which is implemented by the

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Harris warns Trump will slash Obamacare

Trump says he never mentioned it; both candidates court Hispanic voters



REUTERS, Phoenix

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris warned voters on Thursday that Republican Donald Trump and his allies would scale back healthcare programmes if he wins the White House and said his comments at a Wednesday rally were offensive to women.

In a brief press conference, Vice President Harris reminded voters that former president Trump had tried unsuccessfully to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, during his 2017-2021 presidency.

"Healthcare for all Americans is on the line in this election," she told reporters in Madison, Wisconsin, before flying to Arizona and Nevada as both candidates took the campaign to the Southwest.

In response, Trump said he never wanted to get rid of the program. "I never mentioned doing that, never even thought about such a thing," he posted on his Truth Social platform after she made the remark.

Opinion polls show a historically close contest between Harris and Trump, with the outcome of Tuesday's US presidential election likely to be decided in seven battleground states.

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Democratic presidential nominee US Vice President Kamala Harris and US singer Jennifer Lopez attend a campaign rally in North Las Vegas, Nevada, US on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

DENGUE DEATH TOLL RISES TO 300



With three new dengue deaths yesterday, the total number of deaths has risen to 300 this year, depicting a grim picture of how losing lives to the mosquito-borne disease has become a regular scenario over recent years.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, 1,705 dengue deaths occurred in 2023, marking the highest annual death toll to date. In comparison, there were 281 deaths in 2022 and 179 in 2019.

With the 382 new cases, the total number of dengue cases rose to 62,199 this year.

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