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NAT'L EYE INSTITUTE Thousands denied treatment over two weeks

Some services to resume today amid standoff between July protesters and hospital staff

TUHN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Thousands of patients have been deprived of treatment as most services at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital (NIOH) in Dhaka remained suspended for two weeks until yesterday.

Hospital authorities plan to partially resume outdoor services from 8:00am today, with full resumption expected from Saturday.

However, some staffers, including doctors, remain sceptical about fully restoring services, as several individuals injured during the July uprising continue to “occupy” a section of the hospital despite having been issued discharge letters.

“The authorities are planning to fully resume operations from Saturday, but everyone is still panicked about the previous incidents. Given the current situation, we remain sceptical about a full resumption of services,” said a doctor on condition of anonymity.

Staffers also alleged that some of the injured July protesters – referred to as July Joddha (warriors) as per a government notice – have been misbehaving with hospital personnel, and that a few were involved in malpractices such as brokering patient admissions and giving bribes to fast-track surgeries.

On the other hand, several of the injured protesters

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With many offices reopening after the Eid holidays, city dwellers are gradually returning to the capital from their homes outside Dhaka. The photo was taken at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

UK freezes assets of ex-land minister Saifuzzaman

STAR REPORT

The UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) has frozen properties in the United Kingdom owned by Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, Bangladesh's former minister of land, reports Al Jazeera.

The move follows legal requests from Bangladesh authorities to take action against assets owned by Saifuzzaman, a political ally of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina of the now-banned Awami League. Saifuzzaman is under investigation by Bangladesh authorities for money laundering.

In a statement to Al Jazeera, an NCA spokesperson confirmed the freezing order. “We can confirm that the NCA has secured freezing orders against a number of properties as part of an ongoing civil investigation.”

The property freeze means, in effect, that the assets cannot be sold by Saifuzzaman.

The action by the police agency, often

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Dengue cases surge outside the capital

288 people hospitalised in a day across country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 95 percent of the dengue cases reported in the country yesterday came from districts outside Dhaka and experts are urging immediate action to prevent a more severe outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), of the 288 people hospitalised with dengue yesterday, 276 were from areas outside the capital. This marks the highest daily tally of dengue cases reported so far this year.

The trend follows a broader pattern observed in 2025: of the 5,303 dengue cases recorded to date, 4,012 – more than 75 percent – have been reported from outside Dhaka. At least 1,271 cases have been reported within Dhaka city – 478 in Dhaka North City Corporation and 793 in Dhaka South City Corporation.

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Bangladesh is experiencing more dengue cases in 2025 than during the same period last year. As of May 25, 2025, the country had recorded 3,972 cases and 23 deaths, compared to 2,853 cases and 41 deaths by the same date in 2024.

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Israel kills 120 in Gaza

At least 71 aid-seekers among dead; Gaza-bound activist convoy crosses Libyan capital en route to Cairo

AGENCIES

Israeli gunfire and airstrikes killed at least 120 Palestinians in Gaza yesterday, many of them near an aid site operated by the US- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation in the centre of the enclave, local health officials said.

Gaza's health ministry said at least 57 people were killed and 363 wounded as they approached a food distribution centre near the former Jewish settlement of Netzarim before dawn.

Israel's military said its forces fired warning shots overnight towards a group of suspects as they posed a threat to troops in the area of the Netzarim Corridor.

Later yesterday, health officials at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip said at least 14 people had been killed by Israeli gunfire as they approached another GHF site in Rafah.

At least 474 people were also injured across Gaza in the past 24 hours, officials in Gaza said.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel's offensive on Gaza has killed 55,104 people, mostly civilians, according to health authorities in Gaza, and flattened much of the densely populated strip, which is home to more than two million

people. At least 127,394 people have been also injured.

Most of the population is displaced and malnutrition is widespread.

The UN condemned the killings in Gaza, which it says is “the hungriest place on Earth”.

The UN has refused to supply aid via the foundation, which uses private contractors with Israeli military backup in what they say is a breach of humanitarian standards.

Elsewhere in Gaza, its health ministry said at least 11 other people were killed by separate Israeli gunfire and strikes across the coastal enclave yesterday.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio condemned the sanctions imposed Tuesday by Britain and Britain's foreign ministry earlier announced that Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir will be banned from entering the UK and will have any assets in the country frozen.

Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Norway have also imposed fresh measures against the ministers.

- » US slams sanctions by UK, allies on far-right Israeli ministers
- » Greta Thunberg back in Sweden after deportation from Israel
- » Israel urges Egypt to block convoy



Musk regrets some of his Trump criticisms

AFP, Washington

Elon Musk, the world's richest person and Donald Trump's former advisor, said yesterday that he regretted some of his recent criticisms of the US president after the pair's public falling out last week. “I regret some of my posts about President @realDonaldTrump last week. They went too far,” Musk wrote on his social media platform X.

Musk's expression of regret came just days after Trump threatened the tech billionaire with “serious consequences” if he sought to punish Republicans who voted for a controversial spending bill.

51% Bangladeshi girls married off before they're 18

Finds UNFPA report on world population

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has the highest prevalence of child marriage in South Asia, with 51 percent of girls married before turning 18 between 2006 and 2024, according to a report released yesterday by the United Nations.

In contrast to Bangladesh's figures, only two percent of girls in the Maldives were married before 18, compared to 10 percent in Sri Lanka, 18 percent in Pakistan, 23 percent in India, 26 percent in Bhutan, and 35 percent in Nepal.

The findings are part of the State of World Population 2025 report, titled The Real Fertility Crisis, published by UNFPA.

The report highlights significant variations in child marriage rates across South Asia.

In contrast to Bangladesh's figures, only 2 percent of girls in the Maldives were married before 18, compared to 10 percent in Sri Lanka, 18 percent in Pakistan, 23 percent in India, 26 percent in Bhutan, and 35 percent in Nepal.

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1 dies as BNP factions clash

Widow wants justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nganj

The body of BNP supporter Mamun Bhuyan, the man who got shot during a clash between two groups of BNP's affiliated bodies, was brought to his home in the Majhipara area of Bhulta, Narayanganj, yesterday afternoon.

His wife Emma Akter was inconsolable and fainted several times.

“My two innocent children... He left, placing them in my arms. How will I survive with these children?” she wailed.

When Mamun, 32, a supplier of gas cylinders, got shot near his home on Tuesday, Emma and her two children, both aged below 10, were not home. She came back after hearing that Mamun had been shot and learned at night that he had died.

“He is innocent. I want justice for him. Everyone involved should face trial,” she said between sobs.

Mamun's elder brother

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Fishermen readying their nets and trawlers to sail out to the Bay of Bengal as the two-month ban on marine fishing ends at midnight. The photo was taken yesterday in Daulatkhan upazila of Bhola. Story on page 4.

PHOTO: MONIR UDDIN ANIK

1 killed, 5 hurt in clash over sexual harassment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

One person was killed and at least five others injured in a clash triggered by an incident of alleged sexual harassment in Dhanachapur village of Netrokona's Kendua upazila on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Anisul Islam, 43, said Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kendua Police Station, adding that the clash began in the afternoon and continued until nightfall.

Quoting the victim's family, the OC said that around 5:20pm, several women from Anisul's family were gathered outside their home when a group of young men – including Amin, 24, and Sajib, 30 – allegedly made obscene remarks and sang lewd songs.

When the women protested, neighbours intervened and drove the men away.

However, about 10 minutes later, a group of 10 to 15 individuals, reportedly led by Md Siddiq Mia, 40, launched an attack on Saidul's home.

Armed with locally made weapons, the attackers vandalised the house and assaulted both male and female members of the family, the OC added.

Police arrived shortly after and brought the situation under control.

Those injured included Anisul's

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