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352 dengue cases logged in 24 hours

The highest this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more death and 352 new dengue cases were reported in the 24 hours to yesterday morning—the highest single-day tally so far this year—with Barishal division reporting high infection rates.

The previous highest number of cases was recorded at 288 on on June 11, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services.

The deceased person is a 25-year-old female from Barura of Cumilla. As of June 21, eight people died from dengue this year.

Currently, 882 dengue patients are receiving treatment in hospitals across the country.

The total number of fatalities and confirmed cases from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh rose to 31 and 7,429 respectively as experts say a rapid dengue outbreak looms large across the country.

Of the total infected cases yesterday, 167 (47 percent) were

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Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto jumps in the air to celebrate his century during the fifth day of the first Test, which ended in a draw, against Sri Lanka in Galle yesterday. Following his 148 in the first innings, Shanto scored 125 not out in the second and became the first Bangladeshi to hit twin centuries in two Test matches.

PHOTO: AFP

Galle Test ends in a draw

AFP, Galle

The first Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka fizzled out into a damp draw on Saturday, with rain robbing the match in Galle of a proper climax.

Sri Lanka were set a tall order of 296 in 37 overs and were tottering at 72-4 when stumps were drawn 9.5 overs into the final hour, with both captains shaking hands and accepting no result was possible.

The day belonged to Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, who scored centuries in both innings.

Shanto made an unbeaten 125 in the second innings after posting 148 in his first dig.

It was the second time he had achieved the feat, scoring two centuries in a match against Afghanistan in 2023.

However, questions will linger over his captaincy. In pursuit of his landmark, Shanto might have taken his eye off the larger prize.

Bangladesh were 247 runs ahead when play resumed after a rain delay and, with 50 overs still to be bowled on the day, an earlier declaration

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2014, 2018, 2024 POLLS

BNP to sue former ECs, officials today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP is set to file a case against officials involved in the last three national elections with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police today. The party will also lodge a formal complaint with the Election Commission in this regard, BNP leaders said yesterday.

The accused will include former chief election commissioners, election commissioners, EC secretaries, and police and intelligence officials who served during the polls.

This move comes less than a week after Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus ordered a probe into the role of previous election commissions in the irregularities surrounding the 2014, 2018 and 2024 general elections.

On June 16, Yunus met with the National Consensus Commission and instructed it to form an investigation committee in this regard.

The three-member BNP team filing the case today will be led by the party's National Executive Committee member Salahuddin Khan.

Earlier in January, the Election Reform Commission submitted its report recommending investigation and action against those found complicit in electoral fraud.

Speaking to this newspaper, Salahuddin Khan said a complaint has been prepared naming 24 individuals, including former chief election commissioners Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed, KM Nurul Huda and Kazi Habibul Awal. Others named include election commissioners, EC officials, and police and intelligence officers.

He added that the list is not exhaustive, as more names are being collected. "Charges will also be brought against officials involved at the district and upazila levels."

The three general elections in question have drawn widespread criticism for lacking inclusivity, transparency

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POLICE REFORMS

Home plans glass walls, bodycams, legal overhaul

SHARIFUL ISLAM and BAHARAM KHAN

The home ministry plans to carry out a series of police reforms over the next six months to enhance transparency and accountability within the force and curb corruption and human rights violations by law enforcers.

The initiatives include the introduction of UN-prescribed crowd control measures and the installation of glass-walled interrogation cells at all 664 police stations in line with the recommendations of a reform panel.

Police stations will be required to accept general diaries and first information reports without delay. Besides, there won't be any police verification for government jobs or passport issuance unless an applicant faces specific allegations of involvement in anti-state activities.

A committee led by an additional secretary has drawn up an action plan, categorising the reforms into immediate, mid-term, and long-term ones.

The move comes around three months after the Cabinet Division sent the Police Reform Commission's recommendations to the ministry, asking it to formulate an action plan for their implementation.

The issue of police reforms came to the fore following the fall of the Awami League government through a mass uprising that left over 1,400 people dead – many of them in police shootings.

with a set of recommendations.

Joint Secretary Rebeka Khan, also member secretary of the committee, said reforms that could be implemented within six months were classified as "immediate",

REFORM INITIATIVES

- Introduction of UN-prescribed crowd control measures
- No police verification for government jobs or issuing passports
- Special cells to be formed to let people file complaints of rights violations, misconduct by law enforcers

Public trust in police has declined over the years, largely due to the controversial role of a section of officials during the past government's tenure. Many police officials have been accused of suppressing dissent through arbitrary arrests, torture, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearance.

On September 11, the interim government formed the Police Reform Commission which submitted its report on January 15

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Fair polls not possible without govt support: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A free and fair election is not possible without the cooperation of the government no matter how independent the Election Commission is, said Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday.

The government will need to play a central role in conducting the election, he said while inaugurating a daylong training programme on electoral laws and regulations at the Electoral Training Institute in the capital.

The deployment of law enforcement personnel in the field will also require government support, he said.

Meanwhile, the EC is advancing its preparatory work for the upcoming national polls.

Ahead of the 13th national parliamentary election, the EC has already requested updated information on minor repairs at educational institutions used or likely to be used as polling centres. The commission also approved the policy for setting up polling centres.

As the constitutional body responsible for organising the polls, the commission has emphasised the need to remain fully prepared for the 13th parliamentary election whether it takes place in February or April next year.

The EC has already made significant progress in several key areas, including updating the voter list, finalising parliamentary constituency boundaries and registering new political parties.

The number of voters is expected to be around 12.5 crore, according to the Election Commission.

The EC has not yet received any official communication regarding the joint statement issued in London by the



AMM Nasir Uddin

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BUSINESS

No more lifeline for black money

The government may scrap the provision that allows black money to be legalised through the purchase of flats and land. The decision is likely to be taken at today's advisory council meeting, where the Tk 790,000 crore national budget may be passed. The move comes amid heavy criticism against the scope in the proposed Finance Bill 2025 for legalising undisclosed money through investments in real estate.

STORY ON B1



Police negotiate with protesting students of United International University, who blocked a road in the capital's Notunbazar area for hours yesterday, disrupting traffic. The demonstrators had gathered there to press home their demands, including the withdrawal of expulsion orders against some students.

PHOTO: STAR

Israeli fire kills at least 12 people in Gaza

AFP, Gaza City

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli fire killed at least 12 people yesterday, including eight who had gathered near aid distribution sites in the Palestinian territory suffering severe food shortages.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP that three people were killed by gunfire from Israeli forces while waiting to collect aid in the southern Gaza Strip.

In a separate incident, Bassal said five people were killed in a central area known as the Netzarim corridor, where thousands of Palestinians have gathered daily in the hope of receiving food rations.

The Israeli army told AFP it was "looking into" both incidents, which according to the civil defence agency occurred near distribution centres run by the US- and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.

Its operations began at the end of May – when Israel eased a total aid blockade that lasted more than two months – but have been marred by chaotic scenes and neutrality concerns.

UN agencies and major aid groups have refused to cooperate with the foundation over concerns it was designed to cater to Israeli military objectives.

The health ministry in the Hamas-run territory yesterday said that 450 people had been killed and 3,466 others injured while seeking aid in near-daily incidents since late May.

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