



Tania helps her three-year-old son Rafi drink saline as he lies on bed at Mugda Medical College Hospital. Rafi, who had been suffering from a fever for five days, was admitted four days ago after his condition deteriorated. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Dhaka sees fewer dengue cases, but more deaths

Experts urge strengthening district-level response, primary healthcare system

HELEMUL ALAM

Though most dengue cases are being reported from outside Dhaka, the majority of deaths are occurring within the capital.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), a total of 14,069 patients were hospitalised as of yesterday morning, with 11,014 of them from outside Dhaka.

The Barishal division alone has recorded 5,957 cases, while Barguna district -- currently the country's hotspot -- has reported 3,587 cases.

However, DGHS data shows that out of the 54 reported deaths, 28 occurred in Dhaka city, with 22 in areas under the Dhaka South City Corporation.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said many critically ill patients are referred from local hospitals outside Dhaka to major hospitals in the city.

"When these patients arrive, their

condition is often already critical," he said. "They get infected outside the capital but die in Dhaka hospitals, which may explain the higher number of deaths reported in the city."

- **14,069 cases reported this year; 11,014 outside Dhaka**
- **Barguna current hotspot with 3,587 cases**
- **28 out of 54 deaths occurred in the capital**
- **Delayed referrals causing higher fatality rates**

He pointed to the time delay as a major factor. "When a patient travels from Barishal or other distant districts, it can take five to six hours to reach a Dhaka hospital and another hour for admission.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

## 243 govt officials accused in graft cases since Aug 5

Surge in cases follows fall of AL, shows data from ACC report

### ACC ACTIVITIES AUGUST 2024 TO JUNE 2025



Investigations - 768  
Total Cases - 399  
Chargesheets - 321  
Asset statement - 223  
Cases Completed - 9

#### ACCUSED BY PROFESSION

Govt Employees - 343  
Businessmen - 114  
Politicians - 92

DIPAN NANDY

In the 11 months since the uprising on August 5, the Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a total of 399 cases, averaging about 36.27 cases per month. These cases named 1,264 individuals as accused, including 243 government employees, accounting for 27.13 percent of the total.

The data was disclosed in a recent statistical report published by the ACC.

The commission began taking more visible action following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5 last year and the assumption of power by an interim government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus three days later.

During the initial three months after the political shift, the ACC was still headed by Moinuddin Abdullah, who had been appointed during the AL's tenure. Following his resignation, along with the rest of the commission, on October 29, a new commission led by Dr Abdul Momen assumed office about a month and a half later.

Speaking on the matter, Md Akhtar Hossain, director general (prevention) of the ACC, said, "We are prioritising

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Push for influence-free police force stalls

Home ministry drops proposal of an independent commission from action plan for now

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The formation of an independent police commission now appears highly unlikely under the current government, as the home ministry has excluded the proposal from its action plan for the coming year.

The Police Reform Commission submitted its report to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on January 15, recommending the formation of a neutral and independent police commission. It also suggested seeking expert opinions on whether the commission should be a statutory or constitutional body.

Following a decision by the Advisory Council on March 13, the Cabinet Division forwarded the recommendations to the home ministry, requesting an action plan.

The ministry then formed a committee, which outlined an implementation plan. It noted that while some reforms could be implemented within six months to a year, others would take longer.

The ministry informed the Cabinet Division that a timeline for establishing the commission could only be set after consultations with the ministries of law, finance, and public administration.

Asked about the matter, Joint Secretary Rebeka Khan, also member secretary of the committee, said reforms involving multiple ministries or complex

legal and financial implications have been placed in the long-term implementation plan.

The chief adviser has already announced that the next general election will be held in February or April next year. Even if the election takes place in June, instead of earlier, the current government will have a limited time to form such a commission through an ordinance, making it unlikely, experts say.

Asked why the Police Reform Commission's proposals were not shared with political parties for

recommendations as "vague and useless", saying it did not clearly state whether a commission should be established.

However, a public survey conducted online by the reform panel found that 58.9% of 14,389 respondents supported the formation of an independent police commission.

Experts stress that such a commission has become essential to free the police from political influence and ensure accountability.

Calls for police reforms have



**Police officials and experts fear that without political consensus, future governments may eventually avoid implementing such reforms to maintain control over the force.**

broader discussion, Prof Ali Riaz, vice chair of National Consensus Commission, said political consensus is not required to implement these recommendations.

He said the current government will implement short-term recommendations, leaving the rest for the next government.

Asked whether any political government would establish an independent police commission, Riaz criticised the reform panel's

intensified after the July uprising, which left over 1,400 people dead -- many in police shootings. At least 44 police personnel were also killed.

Meanwhile, public trust in the police has also declined over the years, especially due to alleged abuse of power by officials during the previous government's term, including arbitrary arrests, torture, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Dhaka to work with KL to probe terrorism charges

Says foreign adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain, now in Kuala Lumpur, on Friday expressed concerns over the arrests of Bangladeshi nationals on charges of terrorism.

He said the Bangladesh government will work with Malaysia to investigate allegations of militancy against Bangladeshi nationals who were arrested recently by the Malaysian Police.

The issues were discussed during a bilateral meeting with Malaysian Foreign Minister Haji Mohamad Bin Haji Hasan held in Kuala Lumpur on the sidelines of 32nd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) ministerial meeting.

Hossain reiterated the firm stand of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Rizvi slams move to make July Charter a core principle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday termed the call to include the July Charter in the fundamental principles of the Constitution as "misleading".

"BNP has already accepted many points from the July Charter. But why must it be incorporated into the fundamental principles of the Constitution?" he said.

He made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a prayer mat distribution programme in front of BNP's Nayapaltan Central office organised by Zia Parishad.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8



A graffiti tribute to slain bloggers, painted on a metro rail pillar (P-464) at Karwan Bazar as part of a Dhaka North City Corporation's initiative marking one-year of the July uprising, has been removed by unidentified individuals. In its place, a new graffiti stating there is no place for atheists in the country was painted. Left, the photo taken on July 8 and right, the photo taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Another 'gas explosion' burns five of a family

Recurring incidents raise alarms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gas explosion injured five members of a family in Dhaka's Sutrapur early yesterday, just a day after a similar incident claimed two lives in Jatrabari, raising concerns over household gas safety and public awareness.

The latest blast occurred around 1:30am on the ground floor of a five-storey building in Kagojitola, family sources said.

The injured are Ripon, 40, a rickshaw-van puller; his wife Chandni, 35; their sons Tamim, 18, and Rokon, 14; and their one-and-a-half-year-old daughter Ayesha.

Such explosions occur occasionally in city buildings, especially on ground floors, sometimes killing all family members.

Experts suggest keeping kitchen doors and windows open so that leaked gas can disperse into the air and not accumulate indoors.

Ripon's uncle, Zakir Hossain,

### PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- Keep kitchen doors and windows open
- Avoid turning on lights or fans just after returning home
- Ensure septic, water tanks have proper ventilation
- Report gas leaks to authorities
- Turn off gas burners properly
- Service ACs regularly

said all five were asleep when the explosion tore through their flat. Accumulated gas leaking overnight might have caused the blast, he added.

"Furniture and other household items were also damaged in the fire," he said.

Neighbours rushed the victims to the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Shawon Bin Rahman, a resident surgeon at the hospital,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5