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BUSTLING FISHERY GHAT AT DAWN. A fisher shows off his catch at Chattogram's Fishery Ghat yesterday. The market comes alive with the first light, peaking in activity between 7:00am and 8:00am. After weeks of fishing bans and rough weather, the catch is plentiful, though hilsa remains scarce and costly. The abundance of other fish, however, keeps the ghat lively despite hilsa lovers' disappointment.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



‘Land, rights, recognition’

Indigenous leaders reiterate longstanding demands

STAR REPORT

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was observed across the country yesterday with colourful processions and cultural events.

In Rangamati, dressed in traditional attire, men, women and children from the Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Tanchangya, Pangkhu and other indigenous communities marched from the municipality premises to the District Art Academy. The programme began with the release of balloons and featured traditional dances.

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) Central Vice-President and former lawmaker Ushatan Talukder, speaking at a discussion on the Rangamati Municipality premises, said despite changes in government over the years, no administration in Bangladesh has been willing to grant rights or recognition to the country's indigenous peoples.



SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

No progress on separate judiciary secretariat

Law ministry yet to finalise ordinance

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Despite repeated proposals and directives, the interim government has yet to establish a separate secretariat for the judiciary, a crucial reform to ensure the judiciary's institutional independence.

The Supreme Court submitted detailed proposals to the law ministry twice -- first in October last year and again in April this year -- outlining the structure and functions of the secretariat.

The chief adviser, the chief justice, and the Judiciary Reform Commission have all emphasised the urgency of this reform, stressing that a dedicated secretariat is essential to separate the judiciary from executive influence.

However, progress remains slow, with the law ministry sitting on a draft ordinance regarding the proposed secretariat's organogram.

Currently, the law ministry acts as the judiciary's secretariat and controls key administrative matters such

The chief adviser, the chief justice, and the Judiciary Reform Commission have all emphasised the urgency of this reform, stressing that a dedicated secretariat is essential to separate the judiciary from executive influence.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

3 more divisions turning into dengue hotspots

Rajshahi, Khulna, Ctg see sharp rise in cases, deaths since June 1

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With Barishal division still the hotspot for dengue amid a countrywide surge in the mosquito-borne disease, three other divisions have reported a sharp rise in both cases and deaths.

Among these, Rajshahi has seen the steepest increase since June, mainly due to a continuous rise in cases in the Chapainawabganj district, officials said.

The other two divisions affected are Chattogram and Khulna.

With the peak dengue season going on, the outbreak is spreading further at a time when the total number of deaths has nearly reached 100, with three fatalities recorded yesterday.

From January this year until yesterday, 98 people have died and 23,735 have been hospitalised -- both figures significantly higher than the same period last year.

Last year, the number of deaths and cases were 62 and 7,563, respectively, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

As the country has lately been

AT A GLANCE

- Barishal remains dengue hotspot with 36% of cases
- Rajshahi sees sharp rise mainly due to C'nawabganj
- Ctg, Khulna report increasing cases, deaths
- Total dengue deaths 98; 23,735 hospitalisation

REASONS FOR DENGUE SPREAD

- Intermittent rain boosts Aedes mosquito breeding
- Poor anti-mosquito drives in key areas
- High population density aids virus spread
- Late hospital admissions worsen patient outcomes

experiencing intermittent rain, experts warn that the current weather is highly favourable for the spread of Aedes mosquitoes, the

carriers of dengue.

"Intermittent rain is highly favourable for the spread of the dengue virus," entomologist GM Saifur Rahman told this newspaper recently.

He said Aedes mosquitoes are more active in overcast weather, common during the monsoon, when dengue infections can rise up to nine times compared to the dry season.

RISE IN 3 MORE DIVISIONS

Until yesterday, Barishal division accounted for 36 percent of the total dengue cases this year, with Barguna remaining a hotspot, recording 5,065 hospital admissions since January.

However, DGHS data shows a slight decline in cases in Barishal since June 1, when the division accounted for 38 percent of the total caseload.

Meanwhile, three divisions -- Khulna, Chattogram, and Rajshahi -- have seen a gradual rise in both cases and deaths since June, according to the data.

In Rajshahi, the number of dengue cases was only 81 with no deaths on June 1.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

Biman flight faces technical issues again

Dhaka-bound flight from Singapore sees 2-hour delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka-bound Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight experienced a mechanical failure in Singapore yesterday.

According to Biman sources, after nearly two hours of repairs, the Boeing 737 aircraft departed for Dhaka, causing inconvenience to the 172 passengers on board.

This was the fourth incident in a span of just 10 days where a Biman flight had to face delays or return mid-air.

This was the fourth incident in a span of just 10 days where a Biman flight had to face delays or return mid-air.

On Saturday morning, flight BG-585 of Biman landed at Singapore Changi International Airport from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. While preparing to depart for Dhaka with 172 passengers, a technical problem was detected.

Passengers were taken to the airport lounge while engineers worked for two hours to fix the engine issue.



SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

Late night drive turns fatal

2 cousins die, 1 hurt as car hits divider in Mohakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two cousins were killed and another critically injured after a private car lost control and hit a divider near the Mohakhali flyover in Dhaka's Banani early yesterday.

The victims are Nazmul Huda Rintu, 42, and Shawkat Hossain Kanan, 37, of Old Dhaka's Hazaribagh area, said police.

Hasnat, 36, another cousin, was injured in the accident and receiving treatment at a hospital with critical injuries.

All three of them run tannery businesses separately and were involved in other professions.

The car caught fire following the collision around 2:30am in Mohakhali. The accident took place when they were going towards Mohakhali from Banani.

According to family, the three went out for a drive on Friday night around 7:00pm.

Locals rushed Shawkat to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead. Nazmul was taken to Kurmitola General Hospital but later died from his injuries.



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A vendor hangs juice packets from tree branches to attract customers, selling drinks made with ice-cold water. Despite hygiene concerns, many continue to buy them to quench their thirst. The photo was taken in Dhaka's Golapshah Mazar area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Prof Yunus congratulates Shaheen Anam on MBE honour

STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has congratulated Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, on being awarded the Honorary Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) by King Charles III.

"I heartily congratulate you on being awarded the honorary MBE title by King Charles III of the United Kingdom. It is a recognition of your long-standing contribution to establishing human rights and social justice, and it is an honour for all of us," Yunus said in a letter dated August 8.

"This achievement will serve as an inspiration to all. I wish you continued success," he added.

On August 6, British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke formally presented the MBE insignia to Anam at the British High Commission in Dhaka.



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