

'No legal barrier to implementing July Charter' says attorney general

UNB, News

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman yesterday said there is no legal barrier to implementing the July Charter in line with the decision of the National Consensus Commission.

He made the remark while attending a views-exchange meeting with journalists at Johan Dream Valley Park in Jhenaidah town.

The attorney general also said the government will take decisions regarding officials who were involved in major crimes during the Awami League regime, considering their offences.

Asked whether a neutral election is possible under the current administration, he said the Election Commission is aware of the matter and he believes it will form a neutral administration ahead of the polls.

YUNUS AT UNGA

Press secretary outlines 6 key achievements

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shahidul Alam yesterday highlighted six major achievements during Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus' recent tour to the UNGA.

Prof Yunus led Bangladesh's high-level delegation to the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York last week, where he addressed the international community, held bilateral meetings with world leaders, and outlined Bangladesh's vision for democracy, humanitarian leadership, and future economic cooperation.

He returned home on Thursday morning.

The press secretary shared a summary of Prof Yunus' UNGA tour achievements.

A MESSAGE OF DEMOCRATIC COMMITMENT

In his address to the General Assembly, Prof Yunus reaffirmed Bangladesh's unwavering commitment to democracy, transparency, and inclusive governance.

H i g h l i g h t i n g the government's preparations for free, fair, and participatory elections, he assured the global community that

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A mother and father break down in tears while speaking to relatives about their child's health, as he suffers from dengue. It was the third consecutive day of blood tests, with his platelet count still low and his body weak. The photo was taken at the DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ongoing rains may worsen dengue crisis

Experts warn of extended dengue peak

HELEMUL ALAM

Ongoing rainfall in October is expected to intensify the risk of dengue, with experts warning that the situation may worsen in the coming months.

Last year, dengue peaked in October, remained prominent in November, and began to decline in December. Experts fear that with the current rainfall pattern, the country may face a similar or even worse trend this year.

According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), light to heavy rainfall will continue for the next five days across the country. Between October 5 and 8, most parts of the country, including Chattogram and Sylhet divisions, and several areas of Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Khulna and Barishal divisions, are likely to see light to moderate showers with some moderately heavy falls.

A BMD warning further stated that under the influence of a deep depression over the Northwest Bay and adjoining areas, along with an active monsoon, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely in Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions during the 48 hours commencing 3:00pm on October 2.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), dengue claimed at least 575 lives last year, with 1,01,214 hospitalisations.

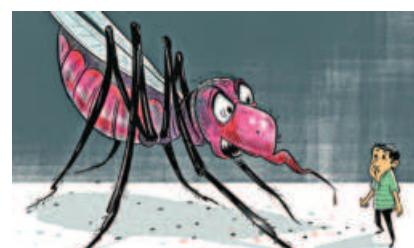
The monthly breakdown shows: 14 deaths and 2,669 cases in July; 30 deaths and 6,521 cases in August; 87 deaths and 18,097 cases in September; 135 deaths and 30,879 cases in October; 173 deaths and 29,652 cases in November; and 87 deaths and 9,755 cases in December.

This year so far, 202 people have died of dengue while more than 48,491 patients

have been hospitalised. DGHS data shows 41 deaths and 10,684 cases in July; 39 deaths and 10,496 cases in August; 75 deaths and 15,866 cases in September; and four deaths with 886 cases recorded in the first three days of October.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman said while cases seemed to decline in August, recent rains are likely to reverse the trend.

"Dengue will remain a major public health issue throughout the year. On-and-off



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure year-round mosquito control programmes
- Step up hotspot monitoring and source reduction
- Strengthen community awareness and participation
- Improve household-level cleanliness and waste management
- Use targeted fumigation in high-risk zones

rainfall creates breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes. Even light showers significantly increase mosquito populations," he said.

He explained that mosquito populations expand quickly after rainfall, with a 15-day to one month growth window.

"If Aedes mosquitoes get a week after rain, a

new generation emerges. Once matured, they can survive another 22-23 days, remaining infectious throughout that period," he added.

Rahman stressed the need for personal protection measures -- nets, repellents, coils and sprays -- alongside targeted fumigation in hotspot areas.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University noted that the dengue peak may be extended due to ongoing rainfall. He urged the authorities concerned to intensify source reduction, breeding-site management, hotspot control and community engagement. "Without active community participation in eliminating breeding grounds, controlling this outbreak will be extremely difficult," he warned.

Brigadier General Imru-al-Quais, chief health officer of Dhaka North City Corporation, said patient lists from DGHS often contain incomplete or misleading addresses, sometimes including patients from outside Dhaka, such as Gazipur or Narayanganj. This, he said, diverts attention from actual hotspots inside the capital.

He said spraying insecticide alone cannot control mosquitoes, despite spending hundreds of crores of taka.

"The primary solution lies in proper waste management and community awareness and engagement are crucial. People must not only know about cleanliness but also practise it," he said.

According to DNCC, current measures include collecting patient data and marking hotspots, using community surveys, deploying traps, and conducting source-reduction programmes with BRAC volunteers.

DNCC has also launched a dengue dashboard showing hotspots, predictive models and rainfall-based risk analysis,

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Bus set on fire in Dhaka

Perpetrators force passengers to get off vehicle before attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants set a bus of Alif Paribahan on fire in Dhaka's Senpara area yesterday morning.

The incident occurred around 7:15am near metro rail pillar 266, said Abdullah Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station.

"Four men intercepted the bus. Some of them boarded and forced all passengers to get off the bus. They slapped the driver and his helper before setting the vehicle on fire," the OC told The Daily Star.

Locals claimed the attackers also fired shots at the bus's windows while leaving, though police have not confirmed this.

AZIZ SUPER MARKET

Factions clash over owners' committee, lock market gates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most shops at the Aziz Super Market near the capital's Shahbagh remained closed since yesterday afternoon due to tension between two factions over the formation of the Shop Owners' Association Committee.

After Juma prayers yesterday, the market's main gates were found locked, prompting many traders to close their shops and leave. Shahbagh police later arrived and opened the gates.

The Daily Star contacted employees of five different shops -- all confirmed that their stores did not reopen in the afternoon.

"There has been tension between the two groups for some days. The market was closed yesterday [Thursday]. Although it opened today [yesterday], trouble started again at noon. The committee leaders then locked the market gates," one shop employee said.

Khalid Mansur, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, told The Daily Star, "One faction is not accepting the committee. This is the source of the conflict."

He said that police went to the spot around 3:00pm and unlocked the gates.

"I have learned that the two factions will hold a meeting tomorrow [today] to resolve the dispute," the OC added.



A woman desperately searches for plastic scraps as the sun sets at the Sylhet City Corporation dumping zone in Parichak, Dakshin Surma. She scavenges for items to sell and survive. More than 100 men and women from different communities comb such dumping zones from morning till evening to make ends meet.

Child's body recovered after Turag boat capsizes

Another still missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Divers from the fire service yesterday recovered the body of one of the two children who went missing after a boat capsized in the Turag river in Gazipur's Kaliakair upazila on Thursday evening.

The body of Ankita Rani, 2, daughter of Swapna from the Hijaltali area, was recovered around 10:00am, said Abdul Mannan, officer-in-charge of Kaliakair Police Station.

Another child, Tanmoy Moni Das, 7, son of Tapash from the same area, remains missing. A search operation is ongoing to recover his body, said Iftekhar Hossain Raihan, station officer of Kaliakair Fire Service.

The incident occurred on Thursday around 5:30pm during immersion of a Durga idol on the west side of Chaprai Bridge.

A small engine-powered boat carrying the children and their families collided with a larger boat and sank. While other passengers managed to swim ashore, Ankita and Tanmoy went missing.

22-day ban on hilsa fishing begins



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The government has imposed a 22-day ban on catching, transporting, storing, selling, and marketing hilsa across the country to ensure safe spawning of the fish during its peak breeding season.

The ban took effect from midnight yesterday and will continue until October 25, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock on September 24.

In Patuakhali, where around 80,020 fishermen are registered, some 75,043 will receive 25kg of rice each as government assistance during the ban, said the district fisheries office.

To enforce the restriction, the district administration has taken up several initiatives, including awareness campaigns, distribution of leaflets and posters, and loudspeaker announcements at markets, riversides, and coastal areas. Fishermen have been instructed to keep their trawlers and nets away from rivers and estuaries during this period, said Md Kamrul Islam, district fisheries officer.

38 rescued from traffickers in Teknaf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A joint operation by the Bangladesh Coast Guard and Navy rescued 38 people, including women and children, from human traffickers in the remote hills of Baharchara in Teknaf early yesterday.

Two alleged traffickers were also detained during the raid.

Lieutenant Commander Siam-ul-Haque, media officer of the Coast Guard, said the operation was launched around 2:00am following intelligence reports. During the raid, security forces rescued 18 women, 12 men, and eight children from a hideout.

Traffickers were planning to send them to Malaysia and other Southeast Asian countries by sea, he said. "The victims were being held captive, tortured, and extorted for ransom by the traffickers."