

WORLD AIDS DAY HIV cases, deaths rising in Ctg

Late diagnosis, poor awareness to blame

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Lack of awareness and social stigma continue to keep many patients from seeking early screening and treatment for HIV/AIDS, making the situation vulnerable in Chattogram, experts have warned.

A significant number of patients are arriving for care too late, while the overall infection and death rates have risen in recent years, they said.

The experts, however, pointed to a positive trend, noting that more patients are now coming forward for treatment compared to a decade ago. Early diagnosis and treatment improve a patient's chances of living longer, they stressed.

According to data from the Anti-Retroviral Centre at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, the number of new HIV/AIDS cases recorded was 44 in 2020, 61 in 2021, 89 in 2022, 58 in 2023, 84 in 2024, and 75 till October this year.



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The number of deaths recorded was one in 2020, six in 2021, 13 in 2022, 27 in 2023, 11 in 2024, and 13 so far this year.

The centre at CMCH, established on October 16, 2017, is the only government-supported facility for HIV/AIDS patients in Chattogram.

Contacted, Dr AQM Serajul Islam Chowdhury, former head of the dermatology department at CMCH, said although the HIV infection rate has increased in recent years, the good news is that almost all patients are coming for treatment.

"When an AIDS patient comes for treatment, it will benefit both him and his family. If anti-retroviral treatment can be started in stage 1, the possibility of a patient living longer increases," he said.

Dr Junayed Mahmud Khan, head of the Dermatology and Venereal Diseases Department at CMCH, said most deaths occurred as patients sought treatment only in the final stages.



A woman points to the charred remains of what used to be her home at a slum near the rail line in Chattogram's Bayezid Bostami area yesterday. Around 50 shanties were gutted in a fire that broke out around 10:00am. It took the fire service nearly an hour to douse the blaze.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

SAINT MARTIN'S ISLAND Tourist season begins with 1,174 visitors on first day



MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

The tourist season in St Martin's Island began yesterday with three cruise ships carrying 1,174 passengers from Cox's Bazar's Nuniachhara BIWTA jetty to the coral island.

The vessels left between 7:00am and 8:00am, with tourists expressing excitement as they boarded, said Hossainul Islam Bahadur, general secretary of the Sea Cruise Owners' Association of Bangladesh.

The district administration, Department of Environment and Tourist Police conducted checks to ensure compliance with government guidelines.

Nitula Yamin, UNO of Cox's Bazar Sadar, said the vessel Kleari Sinbad was fined Tk 50,000 for selling tickets without the mandatory government-approved travel pass.

Abdullah Al Said, a director of Kleari Group, said some passengers had arrived at the jetty at the last moment with return tickets but without onward tickets.

He said issuing QR-coded passes was

not possible because the server was down at 7:00am, and although they tried to assist passengers, they were penalised.

Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Abdul Mannan said tickets and travel passes must be purchased online, and QR codes were being scanned at entry points to ensure the daily visitor limit was not exceeded.

Md. Zamir Uddin, director of DoE (Cox's Bazar), said ships would remain under strict monitoring, with separate checkpoints set up at both the Nuniachhara and St Martin's jetties.

A festive atmosphere prevailed on the island yesterday as tourists arrived after a long pause.

Sadia Nowrin, a visitor from Mymensingh, said she was overjoyed to finally step onto the island for the first time. "Arriving here feels like entering paradise," she said.

Tourism on the island had remained suspended from February 1. Although travel was permitted from November to January, visitors showed little interest without permission to stay overnight.

Arrested for joining BCL procession, teen gets bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A Cumilla court yesterday granted bail to a 15-year-old boy, who was arrested in Nanglakot upazila on charge of participating in a procession organised by the banned BCL on November 17.

The Cumilla Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal I passed the bail order, said Inspector Mamunur Rashid.

Police picked up the class eight student from his home around 3:00am on November 18 and produced him before a Cumilla court the same day. The court ordered him to be sent to jail.

An SI of Nanglakot Police Station filed the case naming 25 people, including the student, and at least 50 others unnamed, on charges of holding the procession to protest the ICT-1 verdict against Sheikh Hasina.

The student's father said, "My son is now suffering from fever. He needs immediate treatment. I am praying to the government to release him from the charge."

CCC starts spraying Bti larvicide for mosquito control

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram City Corporation has launched a city-wide mosquito control programme using Bti (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis) larvicide across all wards.

This is the first time that Bti, an American-technology larvicide, is being used for mosquito control in CCC areas, based on the experience gained from initial trials.

The operation began at 9:30am yesterday morning in front of CCC's Ward 39 (South Halishahar Ward) office.

Acting Chief Executive Officer and Secretary of CCC, Ashraful Amin, inaugurated the programme, while CCC's Chief Conservancy Officer Ikhtiar Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Malaria and Mosquito Control Officer Shariful Islam Mahi, and Entomologist Rashed Chowdhury, were also present among others.

Bti is a bacterium used as a biological control agent against the larval stages of various pests, including mosquitoes.

Presidency int'l model UN event ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Presidency International Model United Nations (PIMUN) Conference-2025 concluded successfully on Sunday after three days of intensive diplomatic simulation.

Over 400 students from more than 30 educational institutions, both local and international, participated in the conference and demonstrated their proficiency in diplomacy, leadership, and knowledge of international relations.

EUM Intekhab, senior school vice-principal of Presidency International School, presided over the closing ceremony.



The event featured Professor Amir Muhammad Nasrullah Bahadur, former head of the Department of Public Administration at Chittagong University, as the guest of honour.

Jaber Hossain, chief operation officer of K-Y Steel, attended the conference as a special guest.

Muhammad Jasim Uddin, middle school vice-principal and student councilor of Presidency International School, delivered the inaugural address.

Participants presented proposals, engaged in debates and diplomatic negotiations across various committees on pressing international issues at the conference.

The closing day included distribution of prizes to the winners and certificates to all participants.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

International Labour Organization (ILO) invites proposals from interested Firm/ Organization(s) to review and update Qualification Packages following national and international context. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the UNGM website at: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/286009>

The deadline for submission of proposal is Sunday, December 21, 2025, by 04:30 PM (BST time).

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Memo No: 35.01.6700.451.07.000.25-4414

Dated: 30.11.2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Narayanganj, for the procurement of below mentioned works:

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No & Publication Date	Name of work	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date and Time
01	TID:1183082 Package No: 21/e-GP/PMP/EE/NRD/2025-2026 Publication Date: 30-Nov-2025	Periodic Maintenance Programme (PMP) Work of Existing Pavement by providing DBS Base Course and DBS Wearing Course at 5+000 (Sanarpur) to 7+500 (Chattogram Roat Mor) and Ch. 9+200 (Kanchpur) to Ch. 10+000 (Noyabari) of Dhaka (Jatrabari)-Cumilla (Mainamati)-Chattogram-Teknaf Road (N1) under Narayanganj Road Division during the year 2025-2026	28-Dec-2025 17:00	29-Dec-2025 14:00

These are online Tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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Memo No. 27.11.0000.101.14.079.25-3196

Date: 01/12/2025

Amendment No. 3

Sub: Amendment against Request for Bids for the "Electrification at Bhasanchar of Noakhali District Project (Solar Power Plant with Battery Back-up and associated distribution system) on Turn-key Basis" under Electrification at Bhasanchar of Noakhali District, BPDB, Dhaka (Package No. GD-1)

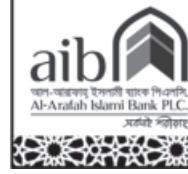
Reference: RFB No: 27.11.0000.101.14.079.25-2337, Date: 14/09/2025
Memo No: i) 27.11.0000.101.14.079.25-2845, Date: 28/10/2025
ii) 27.11.0000.101.14.079.25-2978, Date: 12/11/2025
iii) 27.11.0000.101.14.079.25-3155, Date: 26/11/2025

Amendment No. 3, consisting of 5 issues (spread over 03 pages) along with reference drawings (spread over 46 pages) related to the Request for Bids for the "Electrification at Bhasanchar of Noakhali District Project (Solar Power Plant with Battery Back-up and associated distribution system) on Turn-key Basis" under Electrification at Bhasanchar of Noakhali District, BPDB, Dhaka (Package No. GD-1), is enclosed herewith; which will be the integral part of the Bid document.

All other terms and conditions of the Bid shall remain unchanged.

Md. Rashedul Hoque Prodhan

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