

Families struggle with rising dengue cases and costs

HELEMUL ALAM

Fifteen-year-old Rahat Miaji, who was recovering from severe electrocution near a madrasa in Chauddogram, Cumilla, has fallen into danger once again after contracting dengue.

Rahat has been undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) since Wednesday. He was referred from the district hospital after two days of treatment due to the deterioration in his condition.

"It is a severe blow for us," said his mother, Aysha. "My son had been improving for the last 15 days after remaining in critical condition due to electrocution three months ago. Apart from him, two others were electrocuted, one of whom died after touching the same flagpole that had injured him. Now dengue has put him in danger again."

She said they had already spent around Tk



Dengue cases surge with 394 deaths, over 96,000 hospitalisations

Delayed hospital admission, late referrals increase dengue fatalities

Medical experts stress early detection, decentralised care to reduce deaths

4 lakh on his treatment, most of it borrowed from relatives. Dengue fever has now forced the family to take additional loans.

"We are already in debt of about Tk 1 lakh, and now dengue has forced us to borrow another Tk 30,000 for treatment. We are in serious trouble," she said.

Aysha said her husband permanently shut down his tea stall two months ago to care for their son, and the family is now surviving on support from relatives.

Like Aysha, many families are already struggling to make ends meet due to various hardships, and the ongoing dengue crisis has only added to their burden.

According to the DGHS, at least 394 dengue patients have died, while 96,627 others have been hospitalised nationwide as of Thursday morning.

Among the deaths, 181 were reported in Dhaka South City Corporation, 67 in Dhaka North City Corporation, 47 in Barishal,

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Buyers crowd a stall selling winter blankets and clothing at the 'Holiday Market', which appears every Friday in front of Motijheel Ideal School and College in Dhaka. Temporary stalls line both sides of the road, offering a variety of affordable items, including leather and jute products. The photo was taken at noon yesterday, a time when the market is typically busiest.

PHOTO: STAR

Looted heavy weapons already recovered Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said yesterday the government has not failed in recovering the weapons looted from police stations during the July uprising.

"Those looted arms are being recovered, and the process will continue," he told reporters during a daylong event at the Fire Service and Civil Defence Multipurpose Training Ground in Purbachal, in observance of International Volunteer Day 2025.

He made the remark in response to a question on whether the government had failed to recover SMGs, LMGs, and other lethal and heavy weapons taken from police stations during the 2024 uprising.

The adviser also claimed that all heavy weapons looted at the time have already been recovered.

Asked about the exact number of weapons recovered so far, he said he did not have the relevant list with him at the moment.

Speaking about the recently approved Police Commission Ordinance



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One probe after another, still justice remains elusive

Despite 39 probe bodies and lakhs spent on allowances in JU, most reports are yet to see the light of day

SAKIB AHMED

After last year's mass uprising, students of Jahangirnagar University's law department staged a series of protests demanding the resignation of Associate Professor Tapos Kumar Das and Suprovat Paul, accusing them of physical and mental torture and harassment.

Following months of demonstrations, the university authorities formed a probe committee on October 1, 2024, led by Prof Shamsul Alam of the government and politics department. The committee was instructed to submit its recommendations within 15 working days.

One year on, the probe report is yet to come to light.

Contacted, Prof Alam said his committee had already submitted a primary report to the vice chancellor. "Following that, the syndicate formed a structural committee led by the VC. So far, one meeting has been held. At least four more meetings are needed to deliver a final verdict," he said.

Over the past year, JU authorities formed at least 39 probe committees to investigate various incidents on campus, including allegations of murder, unnatural deaths, sexual harassment, plagiarism, and other complaints.

Only 18 committees have submitted their reports, even though nearly Tk 40 lakh has been

spent on their sitting allowances, according to documents obtained by this correspondent.

Students have expressed frustration as more than half of the committee reports, especially those involving teachers, remain pending.



Key investigations involving teachers remain pending for over a year

Students accuse the admin of bias and delaying justice

Some people sit on multiple probe committees

Probes into July 14-17 attacks on students remain incomplete

VC cites overwhelming volume of complaints spanning 54 years
Nearly Tk 40 lakh spent on sitting allowances for probe bodies

Faiza Mehjabin, a postgraduate anthropology student, said the delays reflect "a lack of intent and efficiency" within the administration.

Many who previously protested corruption under the former

administration are now part of the current one, she said, but "have not initiated any meaningful investigation into past irregularities".

"The JU administration has repeatedly failed to hold teachers accountable for corruption and abuse of power," added Faiza, also president of Jahangirnagar Sangskritik Jote.

In October last year, another probe body was formed against Associate Prof Md Ikhtiar Uddin Bhuiyan after a student alleged that he published her academic article under his own name without permission. One year later, the report is still pending despite an initial 15-day deadline.

Prof Mafruhi Sattar, head of the committee, said they hoped to submit recommendations soon. "We just need to hold a final interview with the accused," he added.

Meanwhile, the university formed three committees last September to investigate the involvement of 229 students, 19 teachers, two officers and one staff member in the Chhatra League attacks on protesting students on July 14-15 and the police assault on July 17 during the mass uprising. These committees were given 30 working days to submit their reports.

While the probe into the students has been completed -- leading to punishment for most of the accused -- the inquiries into

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BNP fully prepared for Feb polls: Rizvi

STAR REPORT

BNP has finalised all organisational preparations to participate in the national parliamentary election scheduled for February, said Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday.

Speaking to local journalists after the Juma prayers at Sardarpara Jame Mosque in Kurigram town, Rizvi said, "Unless a major national crisis emerges, the election will be held in February as per the schedule announced by the government. The plan is to hold the election before Ramadan. And accordingly, BNP has already completed all preparations to take part in the election."

Addressing questions about the return of Tarique Rahman, Rizvi said, "Tarique Rahman is the leader of the common people of this country. Considering his mother's critical illness, the political reality, and the overall situation, he will return home at an appropriate time. The people are waiting for his return."

Earlier, a special prayer was held at the mosque seeking the speedy recovery of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. Party leaders, activists, and locals participated in the prayer.



MIRPUR ZOO Lioness escapes enclosure, put back in cage hours after

STAR REPORT

A lioness named Daisy got out of her cage at the National Zoo in Dhaka's Mirpur area yesterday afternoon, prompting authorities to evacuate visitors from the premises.

The incident occurred around 4:45pm, zoo director Rafiqul Islam Talukder told The Daily Star. "The lioness escaped from the cage but was inside a six-foot high netting erected to prevent visitors from entering the compound. We administered sedatives, and a few minutes ago,



REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO: AFP

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Man confesses to raping, killing 8-year-old girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A man arrested over the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar on December 2 has confessed to the crimes before a magistrate yesterday, police said.

The accused, Dulal Mia, 29, is from Shankaradah village in the upazila.

Ashraful Alam, judge of the Senior Judicial Magistrate Court of Brahmanbaria, recorded Dulal's confessional statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, said Maksud Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Nasirnagar Police Station.

Later, the judge sent him to jail, the police official said.

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Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad brings out a torch procession in front of Jatiya Press Club on Topkhana Road in Dhaka yesterday, protesting a government move to lease out several terminals of Chattogram port to foreign operators.

PHOTO: STAR

3 of a family killed in Faridpur road crash

Biker, pillion die in Jamalpur

STAR REPORT

Four people, including three of a family, were killed and five were injured when a bus rammed into a battery-run easybike on the Dhaka-Barishal highway in Faridpur's Bhanga upazila yesterday.

Three of the deceased were identified as Nurunnahar Begum, 45, of Purba Sadardi village in the upazila; her daughter Rimu Akter, 23; and Rimu's two and a half-year-old son, Md Raihan.

The fourth deceased was a male, over 50, who could not be identified immediately. All were passengers of the easybike, said Bhanga Highway Police Station Officer-in-Charge Helal Uddin.

The OC said the accident occurred when a Meherpur-bound bus hit the easybike, leaving a total of nine people injured.

On information, police and firefighters rescued and rushed them to Bhanga Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared four of them dead. The bus involved in the accident was seized, but its driver managed to flee, the OC added.

Meanwhile, our Jamalpur correspondent reports, two men were crushed to death, and another was severely injured after a speeding truck ran over the motorcycle carrying them on the Tangail-Jamalpur

Highway in Jamalpur on Thursday night.

SM Nur Mohammad, investigation officer of Jamalpur Sadar Police Station, said the deceased were identified as Babu Ali Dipu, 25, and Rassel Hossain, 24. The injured is Shyamal Mia, 25.

Police said the three friends were returning to town on a motorcycle when a truck ran them over, leaving them critically injured.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals rushed them to Jamalpur General Hospital, where Dr Jamal Uddin, an emergency physician, declared Dipu and Rassel dead on arrival.

Police said the truck was seized after the incident, but the driver fled. "Efforts are underway to identify and arrest him," he added.