



Traffic grinds to a halt at Gabtoli, a key entry point to Dhaka, underscoring the anticipated strain on long-distance travel around the capital. The situation highlights the need for better traffic management. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Bangladesh urged India to normalise visa issuance
Says foreign minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman yesterday said Bangladesh had urged India to normalise the issuance of visas for Bangladeshi citizens.

"It is hoped that positive changes will be seen in this regard soon," he said while answering a query from Kishoreganj-5 MP Sk Mujibur Rahman Iqbal in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad tabled the question and answer at the outset of the day's proceedings.

Iqbal asked whether the government had taken initiatives to improve

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ACC paralysed for 56 days amid leadership vacuum

Delay in forming search body stalls appointments, key activities

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has effectively been paralysed for nearly two months with its leadership positions remaining vacant during this time.

The crisis emerged since all the members of the commission, including Chairman Dr Mohammad Abdul Momen, resigned on March 3 this year. Since then, the ACC has been facing severe constraints in its ability to make critical decisions on corruption-related cases, investigations, and enforcement actions.

As of yesterday, one month and 26 days have passed since the resignations. Officials say despite the restoration of the ACC Act, 2004, no initiative has been taken yet to form the legally required search committee to appoint a new commission.

Sources said the interim government had moved to amend the ACC Act through an ordinance issued on December 23 last year. After the BNP-led government assumed office on February 17, parliament convened on March 12 and 133 ordinances – including those related to the ACC – were placed before the House.

Of those, 113 were passed, seven were rejected, and 13 – including the ACC-

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Measles breaks out in remote hills of Bandarban

83 show symptoms thus far; locals cite poor healthcare access

MONG SING HAI MARMA, Bandarban

At least 83 patients have been undergoing treatment with measles symptoms in Bandarban, including some confirmed cases, as of Monday, according to the district civil surgeon's office.

The situation is particularly critical in Alikadam upazila, where most of the cases have been identified.

Dr Md Shahin Hossain Chowdhury, civil surgeon of Bandarban, said a temporary medical camp was set up on Saturday at Kurukpata Bazaar in Alikadam upazila to control the situation. The camp has facilities to treat up to 30 patients at a time, along with three doctors, three nurses, one laboratory specialist, and an assistant civil surgeon on duty.

Doctors said 65 patients came with fever and rashes to the camp on day one, while 55 came with similar symptoms on the following day



Bougainvilleas bloom brightly even in this concrete jungle called Dhaka. Numerous flowers have begun blossoming recently, adding vivid colours all across the country, marking the transition from spring into early summer. The photo was taken in the capital's Paribagh area yesterday.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

RAMPURA KILLINGS
Witness alleges 'helicopter gunfire' at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he saw gunfire from a helicopter targeting student protesters during the July 2024 uprising.

"I saw from the 13th floor of my office in Aftabnagar shots being fired from a Rab helicopter at protesting students around 3:00pm on July 18," Md Maruf Hossain, an assistant marketing manager at Power Grid Bangladesh, testified before the tribunal.

Maruf, also a university student, was deposing in a

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4 Dhaka zones face highest heat exposure: study

Experts call for more green spaces, improved urban health system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A recent study identified four areas within Dhaka city – Uttara-Airport-Bashundhara, Farmgate, Gulistan-Shahbagh, and Shyampur – as having the highest heat exposure, both in terms of mean and maximum temperatures.

The areas represent diverse land-use patterns and include some of Dhaka's major commercial centres, as highlighted in a policy brief titled "Advancing Urban Health Systems Through Evidence".

The findings were presented at a roundtable discussion hosted by the BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health at BRAC University, themed "Rethinking Urban Health Systems: From Research to Policy."

The study was conducted under the CHORUS (2020–April 2026) Research Programme, funded by the FCDO and led by BRAC JGSPH and ARK Foundation in Bangladesh, which focuses on strategic purchasing and health system improvements in urban settings.

Using detailed spatial analysis, researchers identified strong intra-urban inequality, with certain neighbourhoods significantly more exposed to heat risks, highlighting the need for targeted interventions, including awareness campaigns, early warning systems, and localised planning.

The study also stressed better resource allocation and performance-based

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FROM PRESS GALLERY



464 murder, 666 rape cases filed since Feb 17
Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said since the government assumed office on February 17 this year, a total of 464 murder cases and 666 rape cases have been filed nationwide.

Responding to a question from NCP MP Hasnat Abdullah, he said 604 suspects have been arrested in connection with

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Shama Obaed alleges graft by young interim govt members

Nahid demands proof

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam yesterday told parliament that while the July uprising demonstrated the patriotism of the new generation, corruption allegations have emerged against younger members of the interim government formed after August 5, 2024.

Responding to the remarks, Opposition Chief Whip and former interim government adviser Nahid Islam challenged her to present evidence, asking where he had committed corruption.

Speaking during the discussion on the motion of thanks regarding the president's address, Shama Obaed argued that if the president or his speech were

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(Sunday). Of them, three were confirmed to have measles on the first day and another six on the next day. The infected individuals are being treated at the camp, they added.

According to the civil surgeon's office, at least 28 patients are being treated with measles symptoms in Alikadam upazila and six each in Lama and Naikhongchhari upazilas.

Most of the infected are children from the Mro and Marma communities.

However, no cases have so far been reported yet in the district headquarters, Thanchi, Ruma, and Rowangchhari upazilas.

Dr Md Hanif Chowdhury, a physician at Alikadam Upazila Health Complex, said 28 Mro children from Kurukpata union are admitted to the hospital with measles symptoms; they are all residents of the union.

Also, at least 35 out of around 150 Mro children at the "Plennoi Hostel" in Yangring Para of Kurukpata union have been diagnosed with measles symptoms, said locals.

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