

Today, the temptation to gain popularity by fanning the flames of polarisation seems to have grown... I invite everyone to set aside the divisive narratives.

Pope Leo XIV

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Bangladesh heats up FASTER THAN BEFORE

Extreme heat days nearly triple in two decades, show data compiled by WB's Climate Change Knowledge Portal

ABDULLAH HEL BUBUN

Bangladesh is warming at a pace never seen before, and the rising heat is becoming increasingly dangerous.

The number of days each year when the heat feels unsafe for the human body has nearly tripled in the past two decades. In 2000, Bangladesh recorded about 46 days when the "feels-like" or apparent temperature crossed 35°C. By 2024, that number rose to 120 days – an increase of 163 percent.

No country in the world, except for Cambodia, experienced a steeper rise in the number of such days over the same period.

This level of heat is not just uncomfortable. At this threshold, the human body struggles to cool itself, especially in Bangladesh's humid conditions. This increases the risk of illness, reduces people's ability to work,

and puts pressure on the economy.

The findings are based on an analysis by The Daily Star using Heat Index (HI) data compiled by the World Bank's Climate Change Knowledge Portal and heat-related health data from the Lancet Countdown.

Recent data from the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) also show how intense and widespread this heat has become. Already this year, heatwaves have affected up to 40 districts on a single day (June 2), while smaller spells earlier in the season covered around a dozen districts.

In 2025, heatwaves spread even further, reaching as many as 49 districts at once. The situation was most severe in 2024, when heatwaves affected 51 out of the 64 districts and set a record for the number of heatwave days in April alone.

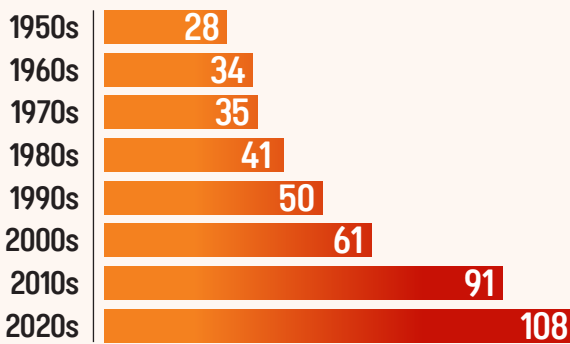
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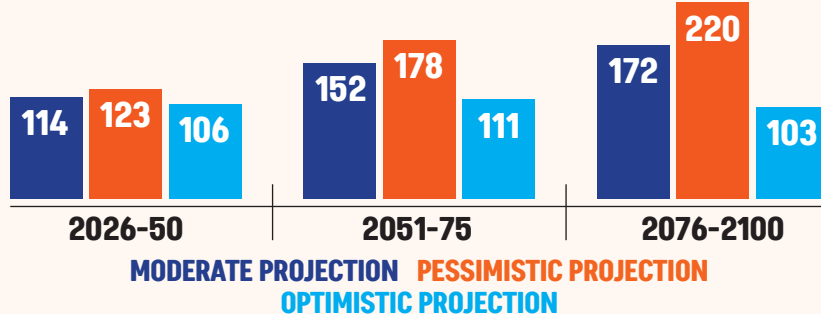
Seeking relief from the scorching heat, a worker splashes water on his face in Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

ANNUAL DAYS WITH HEAT INDEX>35°C



PROJECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL DAYS WITH HI>35°C



SOURCE: ERAS REANALYSIS, CLIMATE CHANGE KNOWLEDGE PORTAL, WORLD BANK

AT A GLANCE

- Bangladesh ranked 4th globally in 2024 for days with heat index above 35°C
- High humidity intensifies heat risk
- Remains among top 10 most heat-exposed countries for 7 decades
- Since the 2010s, annual heat days rising by 49% compared to previous decade
- Human-induced climate change drove about 60% of heatwaves in 2020-2024

SOURCE: CLIMATE CHANGE KNOWLEDGE PORTAL, LANCET

BGB-BSF TALKS IN DELHI Border killings, push-in attempts to top agenda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The four-day director general-level conference between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and India's Border Security Force (BSF) is set to kick off in New Delhi tomorrow, amid tension on the frontier over alleged push-in attempts by the BSF.

BGB Director General Maj Gen Md Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui will lead a 16-member delegation to the 57th DG-level border conference, scheduled for June 8-11.

The talks are expected to focus on Bangladesh's demand for an end to unilateral push-ins and extrajudicial border killings, among other longstanding issues that have strained relations between the two border forces.

"At this conference, we will discuss push-ins and border killings as top priorities," Colonel Abul Hasnat Mohammad Mahmud Azam, deputy director (media) at BGB headquarters, told The Daily Star.

He stressed that if any of those individuals are Bangladeshi nationals, there is an established international procedure for their repatriation.

"We would appreciate it if that process were followed," Azam said.

The DG-level meeting is held twice a year, alternately in Delhi and Dhaka, with the last session taking place in Dhaka on August 25-28 last year.

The conference comes amid heightened tensions along the Bangladesh-India frontier, where a series of alleged BSF push-in attempts in several districts has left dozens

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SOCIAL SAFETY NET More money, fewer schemes next fiscal year

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is setting aside Tk 1,45,000 crore in the next fiscal year's programme for social safety net schemes, up 14.4 percent year-on-year, with about 9.7 percent of

from finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

Of the 90 programmes, 45 will be categorised as pro-poor, with allocations of just over Tk 55,000 crore. This fiscal year, there are 38 such programmes with allocations

Those selected for the Family Card programme cannot be beneficiaries of other social safety net programmes.

To prevent duplication of beneficiaries, an effective database will be developed that contains

6 new social safety net programmes targeting 1cr new beneficiaries	3 lakh religious institution workers to get Tk 5,000 every month	Old-age and widow allowances' beneficiaries will increase by 2,00,000, monthly allowance to go up to Tk 700	Disability allowance's beneficiaries to increase by 3,50,000, monthly allowance to rise to Tk 1,000	Assistance for serious illnesses, including cancer, will double from Tk 50,000 to Tk 1 lakh
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the sum going towards the BNP's flagship Family Card programme.

Next year's social safety net allocation is 2.1 percent of GDP and around 16 percent of the proposed budget. This year, 1.87 percent of GDP or 14.78 percent of the budget went towards the social safety net.

In fiscal 2026-27, the number of social safety net programmes will be trimmed to 90 from 95 at present, The Daily Star has learnt

of Tk 39,000 crore.

As many as 1 crore new beneficiaries are expected to come on board through six new programmes tied to the BNP's electoral pledges.

The largest of these is the Family Card programme, for which 1 crore households will be surveyed to select 41 lakh families. Each family will receive Tk 2,500 per month, which will cost Tk 14,000 crore next fiscal year.

the names, addresses, and contact information of beneficiaries.

About Tk 1,400 crore will go towards the distribution of 42.5 lakh Farmers' Card, another flagship programme of the BNP. Each beneficiary would receive a yearly payment of Tk 2,500.

As many as 15,669 victims from the July uprising would get allowances ranging from Tk 10,000

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NEWBORNS' DEATH Ad-din probe only blames nurse, janitor DGHS report earlier cited wider failures by hospital authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The internal investigation report of Ad-din Medical College Hospital blamed two low-level staff members for the deaths of six newborns, while absolving senior officials and management of responsibility, in sharp contrast to the findings of the government probe committee.

According to the Ad-din probe report, the newborns were in stable condition the previous night, but the nurse assigned to the post-operative room did not properly monitor them, resulting in a delay in transferring them to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

It also blamed a hospital janitor for failing to take the babies to the Neonatal Emergency unit in a timely manner.

However, the five-member committee did not mention anything about possible operational or administrative failures or the structural conditions of the hospital building or the post-operative room, issues highlighted by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) probe.

The Ad-din committee also indicated that the hospital did not have a standard operating procedure (SOP) for operating air-conditioning systems in the post-operative room and suggested preparing one. This finding contrasts

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Take strict stance against extortion, crime, drugs

Tarique asks BNP MPs at parliamentary party meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday directed ruling BNP lawmakers to spend more time in their constituencies and maintain regular contact with local people.

He instructed them to work closely with the administration, monitor development activities and ensure that people can access public services without harassment or delay.

The directives came at a meeting of the BNP parliamentary party at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban ahead of the budget session of the 13th parliament beginning today. Tarique chaired the meeting as the leader of the House.

After the meeting, Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni told reporters that Tarique asked all MPs to monitor whether the government's programmes were being implemented at the field level.

"They have to make sure these are being done. Teachers are not present in schools, people are not getting services in hospitals – the government does not want this. We have to monitor so that the work is done," he said.

Tarique also allocated constituencies to 36 reserved women lawmakers.

The meeting discussed education, health, transport, power, law and order, agreements with China, dengue prevention and progress in implementing the government's priority programmes, The Daily Star has learnt from the meeting attendants.

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4 DAYS TO GO



Mbappe's final masterclass

France's Kylian Mbappe holds the record for the most goals scored in FIFA World Cup finals, with four. He scored once against Croatia in the 2018 final in Russia and then netted a hattrick against Argentina in the 2022 final in Qatar.

**Visit the Star website to also read: 'Schillaci: He came, saw, won, and disappeared'



With the FIFA World Cup just days away, a street in the capital's Banani has been adorned with the national flags of 48 participating countries. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN