



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman with Alois Zwinggi, president of the World Economic Forum, at the Dalian International Convention Center in China yesterday. PHOTO: PTD

BNP urges unity against AL conspiracies

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on the streets and in various districts across the country. BNP leaders and activists said they would not allow any political party whose activities are banned to hold programmes, and they took to the streets following central instructions. Additional security was also in place in different districts and divisional cities outside Dhaka. Law enforcement agencies arrested 58 AL leaders and activists during coordinated drives in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Pirojpur and Jhalakathi. The arrests were made in separate raids and checkpoint operations based on surveillance and case records, said police.

Meanwhile, the Jamaat e-Islami led II-party alliance, including NCP, held a rally yesterday in Dhaka, coinciding with the founding anniversary of the AL. At the rally, Jamaat

Ameer Shafiqur Rahman accused the BNP of shifting its position after coming to power. The BNP had said before the national election that it would ensure fair trial for all killings, enforced disappearances and torture carried out by fascist forces, but had “changed its tune” after assuming office, he said. Nahid Islam, convener of the National Citizen Party, described the AL as a “fascist, genocidal and terrorist organisation” and said the party had no scope to return to politics in Bangladesh after the July uprising. Speaking at the weekly press briefing at the Secretariat, Prime Minister’s Information Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman said the AL could return to normal politics only if Bangladeshis forgot the party’s past actions. Whether the AL, whose

activities are now banned, would remain barred as a political party was a matter for the courts to decide. However, as part of the security measures, law enforcement agencies intensified patrols and took positions at key entry points and other strategic areas. Talking to reporters in the capital, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mosleh Uddin Ahmed said the AL had planned to use its founding anniversary to sabotage the law and order situation. But law enforcement agencies had foiled the attempts. Since June 22, Border Guard Bangladesh personnel have been deployed in Cox’s Bazar, Madaripur, Sherpur, Gazipur and Moulvibazar to maintain law and order and deal with possible security risks, according to the BGB media wing. The deployment will continue

until June 30. The government also ordered army deployment in Dhaka, Chattogram and Gazipur metropolitan areas, as well as Narayanganj, Gopalganj and Faridpur districts, citing concerns over possible sabotage by AL leaders and activists. The army will also remain deployed until June 30. Meanwhile, BNP and its associate bodies held sit-in programmes, rallies and processions in different parts of the country, including Dhaka, Savar, Chattogram, Faridpur, Gazipur, Cox’s Bazar, Narayanganj, Bhola, Sirajganj, Shariatpur, Pabna, Tangail, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Dinajpur. Speaking to reporters after inaugurating an event in Munshiganj, Road Transport Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam said the AL had been rejected by the people and finally banned after acting against public

Cases spike outside the capital

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announced a nationwide cleanliness drive, starting March 14, to curb dengue and chikungunya. He urged citizens to clean their homes and surroundings every week and directed public representatives to organise weekly cleanliness campaigns with community participation. Despite the initiative, dengue infections outside Dhaka remain high, and experts warn the situation could worsen during the monsoon without effective interventions. Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman attributed the spread outside Dhaka to multiple factors, including poor drainage systems, expanding breeding sites, inadequate public awareness, weak control measures, increased mobility, and the lack of a coordinated national strategy. Government initiatives have largely been concentrated in city corporations, some of which have established control systems. Outside these urban areas, however, a comprehensive national control mechanism has yet to be developed. Saifur, an associate professor at the National University of Bangladesh, said the southern region remains particularly vulnerable because mosquito populations were already high in previous seasons, while control efforts remained inadequate. “The virus has already spread beyond Dhaka. If breeding sites are not

eliminated, transmission will continue from these focal points.” Prof Kabirul Basar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, said the rising number of cases outside Dhaka may partly reflect lower population immunity compared with the capital, where dengue has circulated for more than two decades. “Many Dhaka residents have already been exposed to different dengue serotypes and developed antibodies. Outside Dhaka, the risk of infection remains higher, while mosquito control and environmental management are often weaker.” REGIONAL HOTSPOTS In Barishal, dengue cases have nearly tripled over the past three months, although no deaths have been reported. Dr Lokman Hossain, acting director of the Barishal Divisional Health Office, said infections have been rising since Eid-ul-Azha. “We have prepared for possible shortages of medical supplies and arranged mechanisms to transfer resources if necessary,” he said, stressing that public awareness and proper environmental management remain essential. Health officials said Barguna, Pirojpur, and Bhola had previously emerged as dengue hotspots. Barishal Civil Surgeon Dr S M Monzur-E-Elahi said coordination meetings and awareness rallies had been organised, while City Corporation CEO Md Rezaul

Bari said cleanliness drives had been intensified and leaflets distributed. However, they said stagnant water remains in several canals, including the Jail Canal, and in low-lying areas, creating breeding grounds for mosquitoes. In Rajshahi, a pre-monsoon DGHS survey found dengue-risk indicators well above the World Health Organization’s recommended threshold. The survey recorded a Breteau Index (BI) of 30.66, significantly higher than the level considered high-risk for dengue transmission. According to entomologists, a BI above 20 is considered high risk. Rajshahi City Corporation Administrator Md Mahfuzur Rahman said a two-week special drive launched in mid-June includes cleanliness campaigns, insecticide spraying, and larvicide application. RCC also organised a public-awareness rally on June 6. Meanwhile, health authorities in Chattogram launched a 10-day entomological and dengue survey on June 8 to identify breeding grounds ahead of the peak transmission season. For the survey, larvae samples were collected from vulnerable neighbourhoods, including Patharghata, Firingee Bazar, Bakalia, Anderkilla, Momin Road, Nandankanon, Shershah, Kazir Dewri, and Bagmoniram. Sharful Islam Mahi, mosquito-control officer of Chattogram City

Corporation, said Aedes larvae have already been detected in Bayezid, Bakalia, and Kotwali. “A 60-member team is working in those hotspots, and the city has sufficient stocks of larvicides and insecticides to last six months.” In Khulna, residents and health experts said inadequate ward-level monitoring is undermining prevention efforts, although the city corporation launched an early mosquito-control campaign in mid-March, following the prime minister’s directives. Khulna City Corporation Administrator Nazrul Islam Monju said preparations and awareness activities had been intensified. However, residents alleged that clogged drains and stagnant water remain widespread. In Rangpur, residents are facing a severe mosquito infestation linked to pollution and stagnant water in the Shyamasundari Canal. City Corporation Chief Health Officer Kamruzzaman Ibne Taj said Culex mosquitoes remain the dominant species. Administrator Mahfuz Un Nabi Don said the city needs at least 150 fogging machines but currently has only 72. He blamed poor waste management and low public awareness for worsening mosquito breeding. WHAT SHOULD BE DONE Public health experts warned that stronger surveillance, community participation, and sustained mosquito-control efforts would be crucial during the monsoon to prevent a sharp rise in

dengue infections outside Dhaka. Prof Kabirul said dengue transmission can be controlled by disrupting the “epidemiological triangle” – the interaction among the source of infection, mosquito vectors, and the environment. “To stop transmission, at least one side of this triangle must be broken. Controlling mosquitoes, preventing infected patients from getting bitten, or eliminating breeding sites can interrupt the transmission cycle.” GM Saifur, meanwhile, called for stronger public-awareness campaigns, dedicated vector-control teams, and the systematic elimination of breeding sites at schools, colleges, bus terminals, construction sites, and other high-risk locations. “Simply conducting symbolic inspections is not enough. Trained personnel must identify and destroy breeding sites.” Md Robiul Islam, deputy secretary of the Local Government Division, said all 330 municipalities and 11 city corporations have been directed to strengthen cleanliness drives and mosquito-control operations. “We are regularly discussing dengue prevention with local authorities and have convened meetings of the national committee to coordinate further actions.” (Our correspondents Chattogram, Barishal, Khulna, Rangpur and Rajshahi also contributed to the report.)

Task force formed to boost dengue prevention

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chaired by Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD). State Minister Mir Shahe Alam was also present at the meeting. In his remarks, Mirza Fakhrul stressed the need for coordinated efforts by government agencies, noting that combating dengue requires not only official initiatives but also public awareness and active participation. He instructed city corporations, municipalities, district councils, and other relevant public and private institutions under the LGRD ministry to perform their responsibilities more

effectively. Several measures were adopted during the meeting to prevent dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases, which include distributing leaflets and awareness materials on a large scale through various government offices and agencies; conducting special dengue awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and madrasas involving teachers, students, and parents; and strengthening cleanliness drives through coordination among local administrations, elected representatives, and civil society organisations. Other instructions include regularly testing and monitoring the quality of fogging machines

and mosquito-control operations; conducting special drives to identify and eliminate Aedes mosquito breeding sites; increasing inspections of under-construction buildings, rooftop gardens, tyre shops, garages, and waterlogged areas; expanding awareness campaigns through mass media and social media platforms; and identifying locations where dengue larvae are found and taking necessary preventive measures. The committee also directed stronger monitoring and supervision of dengue prevention, rapid collection and analysis of patient data to identify high-risk areas, and swift action

Speakers at the meeting emphasised that, with the possibility of a rise in dengue cases during the monsoon season, it is essential to begin coordinated and robust preparations immediately. They highlighted the need for swift implementation of the committee’s decisions, increased momentum in field-level activities, and the availability of adequate manpower. Representatives from various ministries, agencies, and city corporations attended the meeting, along with senior officials from Dhaka University, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka Wasa, Local Government

Engineering Department, Department of Public Health Engineering, RAJUK, and the Local Government Division. Meanwhile, the government recently reconstituted the national committee to make its dengue and mosquito-borne disease prevention efforts more coordinated and effective. The committee, led by Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, includes representatives from various ministries, divisions, and agencies. The meeting expressed hope that effective progress in dengue control would be achieved through the implementation of the decisions adopted at its first session.

‘Climate action not a cost but an investment’

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with accessible and predictable support for affected nations. Second, climate finance must become more accessible, concessional, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable countries. It should also accelerate technology transfer and private-sector investment. In this regard, we need greater mobilisation and operationalisation of the Green Climate Fund. “Third, adaptation must stand alongside mitigation. For countries like Bangladesh, adaptation is not a policy option; it

is a necessity,” Tarique said, adding that the New Collective Quantified Goal of \$300 billion falls short of meeting the mitigation and adaptation requirements of developing countries, as pointed out by the UN Conference on Trade and Development. He said leaders around the world must set aside their differences and deliver on their climate commitments for the millions of lives at stake. “COP31 should reaffirm the goals and spirit of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change and the Paris Agreement,” the PM said, adding that the WEF provides a valuable platform to foster dialogue, build consensus, and encourage collective action in this regard. Expressing hope that COP31 will rise to the challenge, he pledged that Bangladesh is ready to play its part. “It is time to turn climate pledges into actions, and commitments into results, so that the world can embrace the future with confidence.” Tarique added that Bangladesh believes climate action is not a “cost”.

“We see this as a much-needed investment for prosperity, stability, and a shared future. Together we can build a future that is greener, safer, more sustainable, and more just.” The PM also attended a reception hosted by Chinese Premier Li Qiang yesterday during his visit to China at the invitation of the Chinese premier. Tarique is scheduled to meet with Kazakhstan Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov this morning. Following other engagements, he will depart Dalian for Beijing by train

in the afternoon, where the main programmes of his official China visit will take place. These include bilateral meetings with Chinese leaders. After another meeting with Qiang tomorrow, he will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping on June 26. Tarique flew to China from Kuala Lumpur after wrapping up his two-day official visit to Malaysia, his first overseas tour since taking office in February. He is expected to return to Dhaka on the night of June 26.

Mbappe: Built for the occasion

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beat the best teams to win a World Cup, so it’s going to be very difficult,” Mbappe said after France’s 3-0 win, which also featured a goal from Ousmane Dembele. And he is right. Mbappe always scores at World Cups, elevating his game to an almost untouchable level every four years on football’s grandest stage. What makes it even more remarkable is the ease with which he does it – often more fluently than even at Real Madrid, where he leads the line in one of the most demanding club environments in world football. It speaks volumes that he seems to rise even higher when wearing the France shirt at a World Cup. His second goal against Iraq came from a defensive lapse, but his first was a reminder of his brilliance – a thunderous strike with his weaker left foot from outside the box that left the goalkeeper and defenders stunned.

Yet, given Mbappe’s pedigree at this level, perhaps it should not come as a surprise. This is only his third World Cup, meaning his 16-goal tally has been amassed in one fewer tournament than Klose, who needed four editions to reach his total. Now, however, Mbappe finds himself chasing a different name – perhaps the greatest the game has ever seen, Lionel Messi. The Argentine captain has already scored five goals in this edition, taking his overall World Cup tally to 18 and placing him at the summit of the all-time scoring charts. For the first time in World Cup history, two active players are simultaneously pushing the boundaries of greatness – both chasing records while also battling for this tournament’s Golden Boot. With four goals already in North America, Mbappe is just one behind Messi in that race as well.

“Leo always scores goals and always will. So I am not looking at what he is doing, I’m just focusing on helping my team,” Mbappe said, offering clear respect for his former PSG teammate. With both stars lighting up the tournament from its earliest stages, there is a growing sense that something special is unfolding in North America. Who ultimately finishes at the summit remains to be seen. But Messi – who has never been driven by numbers alone – now finds himself being chased by a player who seems to surpass even his own limits every time the World Cup arrives, setting up a duel that could define an era. In the end, the numbers will tell one story. But the World Cup often tells another – one shaped by moments, momentum, and legacy. And in that space, Mbappe and Messi are once again rewriting what greatness looks like.

Jamaat men assault journo

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a briefing following the procession. The programme was to thwart possible flash processions by activists of the Awami League, whose political activities are now banned, on the party’s 77th founding anniversary yesterday. At one point, some Jamaat activists reportedly accused a journalist of being an AL supporter. When reporters protested, an argument ensued and later turned violent. Witnesses said the activists grabbed Shishir by the collar and punched him. As he fell to the ground, some of them kicked him. Fellow journalists later rescued and hospitalised him. Speaking to reporters, Shishir said, “It is shameful that Jamaat men attacked and injured a journalist. You [Jamaat] speak about media freedom. Does grabbing a journalist by the collar and attacking him represent freedom of the

press?” Jamaat expressed regret over the incident, describing it as unfortunate, and said the party never supports any act that violates party discipline or any extremist behaviour. In a press release yesterday, Ehsanul Mahbub Zubair, the party’s central publicity and media department secretary, said, “We sincerely express our deep regret over the unfortunate, unwarranted and sad incident of an attack on media workers during a peaceful political programme at Dhanmondi 32 in the capital.” He added that the party would conduct an internal review to identify who was actually involved in the incident and how the “misunderstanding” began. “If the involvement of any of our activists at any level is proven, strict organisational action will be taken against them. Meanwhile, the Multimedia Reporters

Association demanded that justice be ensured for the assault within 24 hours and declared a boycott of covering Jamaat programmes if the demand is not met. Fakhrul Islam, president of the organisation and multimedia journalist of the daily Ittefaq, made the announcement from a human chain in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh. Multimedia reporters from various newspapers took part in the programme. In another development, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal expressed concern over the incident and protested what it described as a “barbaric, criminal-style attack and harassment” of journalists by Jamaat leaders and activists. In a release, Chhatra Dal leaders demanded that those involved in the attack be identified immediately and given exemplary punishment.

BRANCH SHIFTING

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is going be relocated to its new premises on 24 June 2026, Wednesday.

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Metropolitan Shopping Plaza
10, Gulshan Avenue
Road No.-46, Ward No.-19
Gulshan, Dhaka.

New Address

Jolchobi Tower
40/8, Gulshan North Avenue
Road No.- 92, Ward No.- 19
Gulshan, Dhaka-1212.

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