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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্পার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

Measles deaths cross 700

Six more die of symptoms

BSS, Dhaka

Six more children died of suspected measles across the country in the last 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, bringing Bangladesh's combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles related deaths to 708.

The information was disclosed in a press release issued yesterday by the control room of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

According to the release, 744 new suspected measles cases were recorded during the reporting period, raising the total number of suspected cases reported since March 15 to 98,266.

The DGHS said 45 confirmed measles cases were also reported in the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 11,594 since March 15.



PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Battery-powered rickshaws and other vehicles seized by the traffic police lie packed in a designated compound beside Postogola Bridge in Shyampur. Confiscated for operating on main roads and other traffic violations, many have been left exposed to sun and rain for weeks as the compound has reached capacity, forcing authorities to park more seized vehicles outside. The photo was taken recently.

Political will key to women's empowerment

Speakers urge party reforms, safeguards against violence

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Make women's nomination mandatory in polls
- Ensure 50% women representation
- Publish gender audit reports of parties
- Set up complaint mechanisms against political violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a symposium yesterday said political will, internal reforms within parties, and amendments to the Representation of the People Order are essential to removing gender inequalities in politics.

The event, titled "Women's Political Participation, Representation, and Leadership Development", was organised by WAVE Foundation in partnership with ActionAid Bangladesh at a city hotel.

The participants discussed a newly drafted "Charter of Demands for Women's Political Empowerment".

Presenting the charter, Rumana Ruma, executive director of Programme for Eco-Social Development in Bogura, called for stronger internal reform processes in parties to ensure a more inclusive political environment,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'Yaba being used as narco-currency'

DNC links seizure surge to higher supply, Myanmar rebel groups

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Seizures of yaba and other amphetamine-type stimulant tablets rose by 90.58 percent in 2025 compared with the previous year.

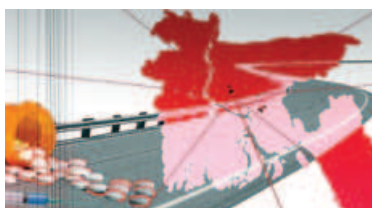
The picture emerged in the DNC's Annual Drug Report Bangladesh 2025, which shows law enforcement agencies seized 43,562,811 ATS tablets in 2025, up from 22,857,751 in 2024.

ATS, or amphetamine-type stimulants, are synthetic stimulant drugs that include MDMA and methamphetamine-based yaba, officials said.

In 2023, the seizure stood at 42,977,219 tablets.

Meanwhile, cannabis seizures fell from 114,345.2kg in 2024 to 96,357.58kg in 2025. Heroin seizures dropped from 502.686kg to around 336.696kg. Phensedyl seizures fell from 5,72,865 bottles to 3,19,940 bottles, while buprenorphine seizures declined from 1,57,977 to 1,34,468 ampoules.

Cocaine seizures also dropped sharply, from 130.184kg in 2024 to



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ATS tablet seizures rose by 90.58%
- 43,562,811 ATS tablets seized in 2025
- Cannabis, heroin, cocaine seizures declined
- Traffickers increasingly using digital platforms

14.651kg in 2025.

Mohammad Badruddin, additional director (intelligence) at DNC headquarters, said the rise in seizures was linked to an increase in the supply of and demand for yaba.

Md Hasan Maruf, director

general of DNC, said supply had increased as Myanmar rebel groups were using yaba as a "narco-currency".

"With limited access to conduct operations inside Myanmar territory, we conduct drives whenever we receive information about smuggling," he said.

Amid the situation, the government has taken steps to strengthen the DNC's operational capacity.

Speaking at a discussion in Dhaka on Friday, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said an amendment to the Narcotics Control Act would be placed in parliament within the next couple of days.

Under the proposed amendment, DNC officials would get modern weapons and updated training to fight armed drug dealers and smugglers using modern technology, he said.

Towhidul Haque, associate professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Social Welfare and Research, however, said the drives and initiatives had failed to stop

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

FROM THE JS GALLERY

'Who killed the intellectuals?'

BNP MP questions Jamaat's role in 1971

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP lawmaker Zainul Abdin Farroque (Noakhali-2) yesterday questioned Jamaat-e-Islami's stance during the 1971 Liberation War and asked who carried out the killings of intellectuals on the eve of victory. The MP said this during a discussion in the parliament on proposed budget for 2026-27 fiscal year.

"I do not wish to inflame the House with arguments. I only want to say this: judge yourselves for where you stood in 1971. We need not remind you. Just look toward the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur," MP Zainul said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Jamaat MPs slam budget, law and order at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami lawmakers Rafiqul Islam Khan and Shahjahan Chowdhury criticised the government's handling of law and order, the banking sector, and the proposed budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year during the budget debate in parliament yesterday.

Rafiqul Islam described the budget as "anti-people" and accused Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed of failing to maintain public security despite playing an active role across ministries.

Rafiqul alleged that S Alam had embezzled Tk 86,000 crore from Islami Bank and Tk 1.5 lakh crore from other banks, accusing the government of failing to recover the money.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Ruling alliance MPs trade barbs over Islamic banking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two lawmakers from the ruling alliance confronted each other in parliament yesterday, triggering an unscheduled debate over Bangladesh's Islamic banking system.

Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) lawmaker Andaleeb Rahman argued that the country must actively promote the Islamic banking sector, noting its emergence as a global trend.

Taking part in the discussion on the proposed budget for 2026-27 fiscal year, Andaleeb said, "Society has become so deeply entrenched in the conventional, Shylock-style banking system that it cannot be changed overnight."

Yet, the reality is that Islamic banking has become a "global trend", he argued.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Eight Ctg wards at high dengue risk

DGHS survey finds all key indicators above safety limits

ARUN BIKASH DEY

A recent survey by the Directorate General of Health Services has found an alarmingly high density of Aedes mosquito larvae in Chattogram City Corporation areas, raising the risk of dengue and chikungunya outbreaks in the port city.

The 11-day survey, conducted from June 8 to June 18 during the first phase of the monsoon, covered 18 of the city's 41 wards.

Inspectors found Aedes larvae in 99 of the 370 households surveyed and 114 of the 345 water containers examined.

According to the survey, all three key entomological indicators exceeded accepted safety thresholds.

The container index stood at 33.04 percent, more than three times the high-risk threshold of 10 percent. Chattogram Civil Surgeon Jahangir Alam said a CI above 10 percent indicates a high risk of dengue transmission.



AT A GLANCE

- Aedes larvae found in 99 households
- Larvae detected in 114 containers
- All key indicators crossed safety limits
- Eight CCC wards found highly vulnerable
- Plastic containers main breeding sites

The house index, which measures the proportion of houses infested with larvae, was 26.76

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Children splash and flip into Crescent Lake in Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday, finding a little joy and relief from the heat, with the temperature hovering around 33°C.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Two bills placed at parliament for amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Narcotics Control (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the Cyber Security (Amendment) Bill, 2026 were placed in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed introduced the narcotics bill, which seeks to revise provisions of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018.

ICT Minister Faqir Mahub Anam placed the cyber security bill, aimed at repealing Section 20 of the Cyber Security Act, 2026 -- the clause prescribing punishment for gambling in cyberspace.

Officials said the government moved to amend the cyber law since a separate, comprehensive bill on preventing online gambling has already been submitted to the House.

Both bills were referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs for scrutiny within three working days.

Opposition MPs objected to the bills being placed without prior notice to them.

Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal responded that objections must be raised beforehand, and the time limit for serving notice has been waived in this case.