

Eight more die with measles-like symptoms

Death toll now 1,122

UNB, *Dhaka*

Eight more patients died with measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, bringing the country's combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 1,122 this year.

The DGHS has classified all eight latest fatalities as suspected measles deaths.

With these, the total number of suspected measles deaths has reached 1,020, while confirmed deaths from measles have remained the same at 102.

A total of 1,109 new suspected measles cases were reported during the 24-hour period, bringing the cumulative number of suspected cases nationwide to 1,95,197.

Meanwhile, 43 new confirmed measles cases were recorded, bringing the total number of laboratory-confirmed infections to 21,666.



A city corporation worker sprays pesticide into a drain using a fogger on Tajmahal Road in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday, as authorities step up efforts to curb dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases. PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

'No projects filling up Dhaka waterbodies'

PM orders Rajuk, says state minister for environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken steps to tackle growing environmental challenges like waterlogging, flooding and pollution, with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman instructing Rajuk not to approve projects involving the filling up of waterbodies in Dhaka, said State Minister for Environment Sheikh Faridul Islam yesterday.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a four-day photography exhibition on rivers and birds at the Bangladesh National Museum in Dhaka, organised by Dhoritri Rokhhay Amra (DHORA).

Faridul mentioned that the government has also banned single-use plastics and polythene in the Sundarbans.

"We are working to protect waterbodies, restore their natural flow, curb plastic pollution and safeguard rivers, birds and the environment for future generations," said Faridul.

The exhibition highlighted messages of nature and biodiversity conservation through river-themed photographs by photojournalist and photography educator Abir Abdullah and bird-themed photographs by photographer Ansar Uddin Khan Pathan.

Enam Al Haque, founder of the Bangladesh Bird Club and a noted ornithologist, said the exhibition offers not only the enjoyment of photographs but also an opportunity to remember the importance of conserving nature.

Political legacy of Jogendra Nath Mandal 'overlooked'

Speakers discuss his role in Dalit rights, equality at Star Itihas Adda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jogendra Nath Mandal's role in securing the political rights of Dalits and scheduled castes, and in forging alliances around the shared interests of lower-caste Hindus and Muslims, has not received its due place in history, writer and researcher Altaf Parvez said yesterday.

The contributions of people from the lower strata to the making of the state and society have long been overlooked, he said at the 31st edition of The Daily Star Itihas Adda, titled "Revisiting Jogendra Nath Mandal", at The Daily Star Centre.

"For all these years, we have followed a scorched-earth policy towards Jogendra Nath Mandal and the scheduled castes," Altaf said.

He said 37 scheduled caste Hindus and lower-class Muslims, Munira said. He also made his "Shudra" identity the basis of his political identity.

Quoting Mandal, she said, "One has to be born a Shudra. Only then can one attain this freedom of the Shudra. I am a free Shudra."

Mandal's search for his homeland after partition eventually became a journey into statelessness, Munira said.

"In a divided country, the exiled untouchable Jogen lost his homeland," she said, describing his life as "a protest against history and time".

Writer and researcher Haridas Thakur said Mandal was not merely a leader of the Namasudras, but of all people deprived of rights and those who lived by their labour.

The shared interests of lower-caste Hindu and Muslim peasants formed one of the foundations of Mandal's political alliance with Muslims, he said.

When Pakistan's central cabinet proposed in 1947 that Urdu be made the medium of primary education, Mandal, who served as the first minister of law and labour of Pakistan, opposed it and supported Bangla as the medium, he said.

He resigned from the cabinet in 1950 after becoming disillusioned with Pakistan's political realities, Haridas added.

He described attempts to blame Mandal for supporting the Muslim League and for partition as stemming from "ignorance of history".

"People like Jogen Mandal do not disappear; their ideas will certainly remain relevant," he said.

Journalist and researcher Shamsuddoza Sajen delivered the opening remarks, while The Daily Star journalist Emran Mahfuz moderated the event.



Speakers at the 31st edition of The Daily Star Itihas Adda, titled "Revisiting Jogendra Nath Mandal", at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: **STAR**

representatives were in the National Assembly in 1954, whereas Bangladesh now has no representative from the community.

The scheduled castes supported the political aspirations of Bangalee Muslims from beginning to end, but this has not been adequately reflected in history, he said.

Altaf cited Mandal's role in facilitating Dr BR Ambedkar's entry into the constituent assembly as one of his major political achievements.

Altaf stressed the need to free society from political divisions, saying there was little meaning in remembering Mandal without a desire and preparation to build a new society.

Prof Munira Sultana said Mandal's political philosophy could not be understood by viewing him simply as a Dalit leader.

Mandal saw the possibility of political unity in the shared class realities of lower-

236 women, children faced violence in Sept

Says Human Rights Support Society report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 236 women and children were subjected to violence across the country in September, including 79 who were raped, according to a report by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS).

Of the rape victims, 47 were children and adolescent girls. Thirteen women and girls were victims of gang rape, while 49, including 25 children, were subjected to sexual abuse.

Five women and girls, including three children and adolescent girls, were killed after rape, while another woman died by suicide following rape.

Six women and girls were killed and four injured in dowry-related violence, while one died by suicide. Another 43 women were killed, 27 injured and 26 died by suicide after being subjected to domestic violence.

The HRSS prepared the report based on news published in 16 national media outlets and its own investigations. It disclosed the findings in a press release yesterday.

- Four killed, over 527 hurt in political violence
- Nine killed in mob violence
- 35 journalists attacked or harassed
- 21 prisoners died in jail

The report said at least four people were killed and more than 527 leaders and activists of different political parties and members of the public were injured in 68 incidents of political violence.

Of those killed, two were Awami League activists, one was a BNP activist and another was a Jamaat-e-Islami activist.

The number of incidents and casualties fell slightly from August, when seven people were killed and 536 injured in 70 incidents, the rights body said.

Of the 68 incidents in September, 35 involved internal conflicts within the BNP, leaving at least 340 people injured and one killed.

Seven clashes between BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami activists left 61 injured, while six clashes between BNP and Awami League activists left one dead and 42 injured.

Two clashes between Jamaat and Awami League activists left one dead and three injured, while three clashes between BNP and the National Citizen Party left 16 injured.

HRSS also expressed concern over mob violence and mass beatings, saying at least nine people were killed and 32 injured in 35 incidents during the month.

At least 35 journalists faced attacks

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Two more held over Radda centre attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested two more people in connection with the attack, vandalism, looting and demolition of the Radda MCH-FP Centre in Mirpur-1.

The arrestees are Sajjad Hossain Mishu Molla, 36, vice-president of Jatiyatabadi Cyber Dal, and Md Rafiqul Islam Jinnah alias Mohammad Ali Jinnah, 27, senior joint general secretary of the Dhaka Metropolitan West unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

The Detective Branch arrested Sajjad during a drive in Aminbazar on Friday, said Mohammad Rakib Khan, deputy commissioner of DB's Mirpur division.

Meanwhile, police arrested Rafiqul from Mirpur on Friday night, said Shah Ali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Rajib yesterday.

He was reportedly expelled from the organisation earlier on Wednesday.

With the latest arrests, 18 people have so far been arrested in connection with the incident that took place on September 25.

'Remember 1991 before calling Jamaat covert'

Porwar responds to Tarique's remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar yesterday responded to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's description of Jamaat and Shibir as "covert", reminding the BNP of its political cooperation with Jamaat since 1991.

Speaking at a rally at the North Gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, Porwar referred to the BNP's "efforts to secure Jamaat's support to form the government in 1991" and asked, "Didn't you remember then that they were 'clandestine'?"

He said BNP and Jamaat had also been together in street movements under the four-party, 18-party and 20-party alliances.

"Khaleda Zia announced the programmes, and Shibir and Jamaat joined the streets and made sacrifices," Porwar said.

Speaking at the rally protesting the arrest of former lawmaker Maj (retd) Akhtaruzzaman, he demanded the withdrawal of the case against him, cancellation of his remand and his immediate release.

Porwar said Akhtaruzzaman had neither assaulted nor harassed anyone while protesting mismanagement at the airport.

Polash receives Mishuk Munier Memorial Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cinematographer Barkat Hossain Polash received the Mishuk Munier Memorial Award 2026 for his work in the film "Nakshi Kanthar Zamin" at a ceremony at Bengal Shilpalay in Dhanmondi yesterday.

Jointly organised by the Lily-Munier Memorial Trust and the family of Mishuk Munier, the event brought together journalists, filmmakers, cinematographers and cultural personalities to commemorate the late cinematographer and broadcast journalist.

The programme began with an introductory speech by Tropa Mazumder, followed by a documentary on Munier's life, his journey in photography and his work with filmmaker Tareque Masud. Journalist Qurratul-Ain-Tahmina, filmmaker Aka Reza Ghalib and others shared memories of Munier.



Cinematographer Barkat Hossain Polash receives the Mishuk Munier Memorial Award 2026 from noted cultural personalities at Bengal Shilpalay in Dhanmondi yesterday. PHOTO: **SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED**

Asif Munier announced Polash as the recipient of the award. Bengal Foundation President Abul Khair handed him a crest and Tk 1,00,000.

Polash has worked as a cinematographer on films including "Bonolota Express", "Saba", "Priyo Maloti", "Nakshi Kanthar Zamin" and "Jalal's Story", as well as web series including "Taqdeer", "Karagar" and "Mohanagar".

Mishuk Munier died in a road accident in 2011 while returning from a location visit for "Kagojer Phul".