

Six more die of dengue, 1,608 get hospitalised

UNB, *Dhaka*

Six more people died of dengue in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, raising the death toll to 256 in the country this year.

During the same period, 1,608 new patients were hospitalised across the country, according to the DGHS.

Of the latest fatalities, two were reported in Dhaka South City Corporation, two in Rajshahi division, while one each was reported in Khulna and Barishal divisions, the DGHS said.

Since January 1 this year, a total of 84,369 dengue patients have been admitted to hospitals nationwide. Of them, 78,482 have recovered.

Currently, 5,631 dengue patients are being treated in hospitals across the country.



Two workers dismantle a billboard structure as a crane-equipped truck waits nearby during Rajuk's drive to remove unauthorised billboards along 300 Feet Road in Purbachal yesterday.

PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**



Bus driver sued over M'singh road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A case has been filed against the bus driver over the deaths of seven people, including three women and a child, in a collision between a bus and a CNG-powered auto-rickshaw in Mymensingh on Friday.

Md Mobarak Ali, younger brother of one of the victims, Mofazzal Hossain Lebu, 50, filed the case early yesterday with Mymensingh Kotwali Model Police Station, accusing the bus driver, said Md Abdullah Al Mamun, additional superintendent of police in Mymensingh.

"It was alleged in the case that the deaths were caused by reckless and speeding driving by the accused," he also said.

Police were conducting a drive to arrest him, the police official added.

The bus driver's name and other details were not immediately known.

The Jamalpur-bound bus of Rajib Paribahan hit the oncoming CNG-run auto-rickshaw on the Akua bypass road on the Mymensingh-Jamalpur regional highway on Friday noon, leaving all its seven passengers dead on the spot.

Police seized both the vehicles involved, but the bus driver and his helper fled the scene.

Bulgaria's Tsar returns 'home' after 1,000 years



AFP, *Sofia*

More than 1,000 years after his death, the remains of what may be Tsar Samuel, one of the last major rulers of the First Bulgarian Empire, are returning "home" yesterday.

Greece and Bulgaria reached an agreement on their return this week, with Bulgarian Prime Minister Rumen Radev hailing the accord as "historic".

The remains "belong to our two peoples", Radev said as he attended a ceremony to mark the return alongside Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

Greece will in return receive 48 objects pillaged by Bulgarian troops from churches and monasteries in northern Greece during World War I.

Samuel, who reigned from 997 to 1014, led several campaigns against the Byzantine Empire with his brothers, one of whom he later executed.

He gradually extended his authority over a swathe of the Balkans, making the Lake Prespa and Lake Ohrid region, now mostly in North Macedonia, his powerbase.

But the Byzantines regained the upper hand after 1001, soundly defeating Samuel's army in 1014.

Samuel is said to have died of shock when he saw thousands of his defeated soldiers returning home blinded by order of Byzantine emperor Basil II, known as the "Bulgar Slayer".

Samuel's state fell under Byzantine rule four years later.

While Radev said future generations would now be able to pay homage to their ancestors, Mitsotakis hailed the remains as having "incalculable cultural and spiritual but also emotional value".

Transparency, rights key to nation's rise

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"We can build stronger cooperation based on equality, fairness and justice. Geography has brought us together, and we are confident that people-to-people ties can take us further."

The PM said Bangladesh believes in dialogue, partnership and mutual respect and would protect its national interests and sovereignty while working positively with all regional and global partners. "Because peace and harmony are the foundation of shared prosperity and development."

The three-day Bay of Bengal Conversation 2026 is being organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) from October 3 to 5 under the theme "Fragments, Frontiers and Futures: Navigating Power, Technology and Trust in a World Rewritten".

The conference brings together around 200 speakers, more than 300 delegates and over 1,000 participants from more than 100 countries.

Participants include former heads of state, ministers, diplomats, policymakers, researchers, academics, journalists, business and investment leaders, technology experts and civil society representatives.

Former Serbian President Boris Tadić and former Malian Prime Minister Moussa Mara are among the notable participants.

In his address, Tarique also outlined his government's five-year priorities, saying Bangladesh is moving "from commitment to implementation" with a focus on national interests, policy continuity, economic stability and institutional reform.

He said the government is working to make Bangladesh an attractive destination for investment and a strong manufacturing and investment hub, with a focus on creating jobs in production, services and exports.

Tarique also highlighted the government's social protection initiatives, including the Family Card, Farmer's Card, Health Card and an eventual Universal Card to provide integrated access to public services.

On healthcare, the premier said the government is working to employ 100,000 healthcare workers, around 80 percent of whom would be women, to provide basic care, health advice and referrals at the community level.

He said the government is also focusing on maternal and child healthcare and expanding access to education, including free uniforms, school bags, midday meals and scholarships from Class One.

The prime minister said Bangladesh's young population is a major national asset but noted that turning the demographic dividend into development required skills and jobs.

"We are embracing technological changes and artificial intelligence while promoting language skills and employment pathways," he said, adding that the government is supporting innovation, entrepreneurship and start-ups.

On agriculture and climate resilience, Tarique said his government is improving farmers' access to technology, irrigation, finance and markets while supporting fisheries, livestock and rural enterprises.

He said Bangladesh planned to dig 20,000 kilometres of canals and waterways over the next five years, advance the Padma Barrage project and develop a Teesta Master Plan.

Tarique also announced a target to plant 250 million trees over five years and said Bangladesh was expanding solar energy, waste recycling and green factories.

On the Rohingya crisis, he said Bangladesh continued to host around 1.2 million refugees and remained committed to their early, voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation to Myanmar.

"This requires sustained political support and global finance. It also requires addressing the root causes of the crisis, which started in Myanmar and must end in Myanmar."

The PM reiterated Bangladesh's readiness to play its part in promoting cooperation in the Bay of Bengal and beyond.

Tarique formally opened the three-day event around 10:00am.

CGS President Zillur Rahman and Executive Director Parvez Karim Abbasi delivered the welcome remarks at the opening of the conference.

The programme includes public sessions such as plenaries, leadership forums and spotlight talks, as well as smaller invitation-only roundtables for in-depth discussions, according to the organisers.

The discussions will focus on major regional and global issues, including geopolitics and security, technology, trade and connectivity, climate change, human security, democracy, governance, trust, spirituality and humanity.

WHO decries delays getting aid into Gaza

AFP, *Geneva*

Getting humanitarian aid through Israel into Gaza is layered with "delay after delay", the World Health Organization said Friday, as it decried "chronic shortages" of medical supplies.

Reinhilde Van de Weerdt, the WHO's representative in the Palestinian territories, said the health situation in the Gaza Strip "remains utterly dire", with none of its hospitals fully functional.

"Not enough humanitarian aid is entering Gaza, and definitely not enough to allow for a meaningful expansion and restoration of health services," she told reporters in Geneva, speaking from Jerusalem.

She said Israel's approval system for medical and other humanitarian supplies was proving a major bottleneck.

India had 'hardly any choice'

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He was speaking at a panel discussion titled "Power and Prudence" at the Bay of Bengal Conversation 2026, being held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon in Dhaka. The three-day conference, organised by the Centre for Governance Studies, began yesterday.

Described the circumstances as "tragic circumstances" under which Hasina landed in India following the fall of her government in August 2024, Trivedi said India had neither brought her nor been prepared for her arrival.

"At that point in time, Hasina Ji was still the prime minister of Bangladesh. We had hardly any choice on that. It was our duty as a neighbour to accept the reality of life."

Bangladesh has formally sought Hasina's extradition from India. New Delhi has previously said the request is being examined through established legal and judicial procedures and has not announced a final decision.

Trivedi also stressed the broader relationship between the two countries, saying it extended beyond transactional interests.

Bangladesh has formally sought Hasina's extradition from India. New Delhi has previously said the request is being examined through established legal and judicial procedures and has not announced a final decision.

"The Bangladesh-India relationship is more than transactional, it is cultural. A good neighbour always comes out in support of each other," he said.

On regional security, he said Bangladesh was an independent and sovereign country capable of assessing its own security interests.

He said India had "full confidence" in the people of Bangladesh and in the trust underpinning relations between the two countries.

"That's where the trust and faith between two nations and that bond makes India and Bangladesh a very, very special relationship," he said.

Trivedi also highlighted the need for continuous dialogue, mutual respect, and trust between the two countries to address bilateral issues, saying every issue between the two neighbours has a solution.

"In a democracy, the dialogue has to be there at the proper forum. And the dialogue has to be a continuous dialogue," he said, noting that the process of engagement between the two countries may be slow, but it has not stopped.

"I can guarantee you, there is no stoppage of process. The process is ongoing," Trivedi said. "Believe me, there has to be a solution, and there will be a solution," the Indian diplomat added.

'Won't accept govt's illegal orders'

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head, Akhtaruzzaman said, "Don't hold my hand. Don't touch me. Why should I wear a helmet? Why the helmet? I won't accept the government's illegal orders."

Around 12:35pm, Akhtaruzzaman was brought to the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court premises in a police prison van.

As he was being taken out of the van, he said: "I spoke about the mismanagement of the airline."

"Brothers, the struggle for people's rights will continue. The people's struggle will continue. We will fight for the people, InshAllah," he said, while raising both hands and making victory signs.

Meanwhile, court reporters were not able to enter the courtroom to cover the remand hearing due to police obstructions.

When journalists asked a police officer on duty why they were being stopped, he replied: "I won't say anything."

Taslim Hossain Rony, a journalist with Star News who was present at the scene, said he had been inside the courtroom around 12:30pm, before Akhtaruzzaman was brought there.

When Akhtaruzzaman was brought to the courtroom around 12:45pm, Mohiuddin Mahmud Sohel, deputy commissioner of the Prosecution Division at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, came and asked him to leave.

"The DC told me that no one could stay inside the courtroom. When I asked why, he said it was a court order," Rony said.

Despite repeated attempts, The Daily Star could not reach DC Mohiuddin Mahmud Sohel for comments at the time of filing the report at 7:30pm.

Akhtaruzzaman's lawyer Abdur Razzaq also expressed dissatisfaction over the alleged restrictions on journalists and lawyers entering the courtroom.

"I consider this a deplorable incident. I do not know whether restrictions were imposed on journalists to hide something. I urge the authorities to ensure that this does not happen again," he told the journalists.

However, Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi denied the allegation that journalists had been barred from entering the courtroom.

"The DC of the prosecution division did not prevent journalists from entering the courtroom. I was present there."

He said Akhtaruzzaman had been "aggressive" during the hearing towards the prosecution, the judge and police.

"He himself was saying that no one except lawyers should remain in the courtroom. Basically, based on his statement, the judge asked everyone to leave," Faruqi said.

On Friday, airport security officer Mohammad Shahriar Alam Sajib filed a case against Akhtaruzzaman with Airport Police Station.

Later in the day, detectives arrested him from his residence in the Dhaka Cantonment area.

According to the case statement, the incident occurred around 10:40am on Thursday near the airport's baggage belt area after passengers arriving from Madinah on a Biman flight faced delays in receiving their luggage amid heavy passenger pressure and a shortage of trolleys.

As passengers grew agitated, Mohammad Kamal Hossain, identified in the complaint as the lawmaker from Dhaka-5, asked airport Executive Director Group Captain SM Ragib Samad to come to the scene, the statement said.

When Ragib arrived and tried to bring the situation under control, Akhtaruzzaman became agitated, moved towards him and hurled abuse at him.

The complaint alleged that Akhtaruzzaman threatened the airport executive director, saying, "I will beat you, I will grab you by the neck, and throw you out." He also allegedly made offensive remarks about the civil aviation and tourism minister.

The situation escalated when people accompanying Akhtaruzzaman began filming on their mobile phones inside a restricted Key Point Installation area, according to the complaint.

Warrant Officer Mohammad Kamal Uddin, a security supervisor on duty, asked them not to film in the restricted area. Akhtaruzzaman then allegedly verbally abused and physically assaulted him, the complaint said.

The case statement also said Akhtaruzzaman threw bottles of Zamzam water collected by other passengers off the trolleys, damaging them and behaved rudely towards a Biman representative.

Akhtaruzzaman joined Jamaat in December last year after being expelled from BNP.

236 women, children faced violence in Sept

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and harassment in 20 incidents, the report said. Sixteen were injured, 12 assaulted and three threatened. One journalist was detained under the cyber security act, while three journalists were accused in four cases.

The report also said interference with freedom of expression continued during the month, with at least 14 people detained and 12 cases filed in 12 incidents involving 26 accused.

At least 21 prisoners died in jails across the country, including 11 convicts and 10 awaiting trial.

Three people also died in incidents involving law enforcement agencies and alleged torture. One allegedly died after being tortured and two died in law enforcement custody.

At the Bangladesh-India border, two Bangladeshis were killed and three injured in three incidents involving attacks by India's Border Security Force, while one person was detained, HRSS said.

The organisation also said there were attempts to push more than 100 people into Bangladesh through different border points.

HRSS Executive Director Ijajul Islam said the rights situation had improved in some areas but deteriorated in others.

He said political violence, violence linked to the upcoming local government elections, campus violence, mob violence and mass beatings, interference with freedom of expression, attacks on journalists, violence against women and children, border violence and labour abuse continued throughout the month.

He also expressed concern over arrests, harassment and legal action over opinions expressed on social media.

PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 4

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-45	12-45	4-15	5-53	7-30
JAMAAT	5-20	1-15	4-30	5-56	8-00

SOURCE: **ISLAMIC FOUNDATION**