



Trader shot in broad daylight in Cox's Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Cox's Bazar*

A furniture trader was shot in broad daylight yesterday in Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila after his car was stopped.

The victim, Mahmudul Haque, 45, was first taken to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital. He was then shifted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

The attack took place in front of Lal Golap Community Centre in Khurulia around 3:00pm, said Sheikh Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Sadar Model Police Station.

Police have seized a motorcycle in connection with the incident and are trying to arrest those involved, the OC said.

Talking to reporters at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, Mahmudul said he was travelling towards Ramu in his car when three motorcycles carrying six men blocked his vehicle in front of the community centre.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A worker spreads freshly dyed yarn over bamboo poles to dry in the open air in Madhabdi, Narsingdi. Once dry, the brightly coloured yarn will be used to make towels. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**

The low-value trap

Why Bangladesh's RMG wages lag behind regional peers

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Although Bangladesh has built a formidable presence in the global $1.2 billion textile and apparel market, its garment workers' wages remain significantly lower than those of regional competitors including China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia and Turkey.

For instance, the minimum wage for garment workers in China is $482; in Vietnam, $180-$250 (varying by regional minimum wage tier); in Indonesia, $145-$253 (decentralised regional rates); and in Cambodia, $192, according to data from the International Labour Organisation.

ANALYSIS

In India, the minimum wages vary from $90 to more than $200, and in Pakistan, it ranges from $92 to $128.

In contrast, Bangladesh's Tk 12,500 minimum wage, set in 2023, comes to $75 or $115 depending on the exchange rate used.

Garment factory owners blame the comparatively lower wages on the low unit price offered by global buyers for Bangladeshi apparel.

The unit price of the garment products shipped to the EU from Bangladesh is less than half of Vietnam's.

The average unit price of Bangladeshi garment items dropped 8.47 percent year-on-year to €13.80 per kilogram in the first half of 2026, according to Eurostat data.

During the period, Vietnam's average unit price rose

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

Gazipur RMG belt calm after days of unrest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

The situation in Gazipur's industrial areas remained calm yesterday following several days of unrest in the garment sector, with police reporting no untoward incidents.

Although only 35 percent of garment factories were open yesterday, workers at those factories joined their workplaces peacefully, while others returned home after being given two days off.

Amjad Hossain, superintendent of Gazipur Industrial Police, told The Daily Star around 10:00am that the overall situation was normal.

Around 8:00am, workers were seen returning home in the Taragachh area along the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway.

A worker said his factory had announced a two-day closure. A worker at Ananta Garments in the same area also said her factory would remain closed for two days.

"We have been living in fear for the past few days. We have got two days off, so I am going home," said a worker at Matrix Sweater in Hajipukur.

Meanwhile, Parkstar Apparels and Parksin Bangladesh in Barabari and Gachha remained operational despite closures at nearby factories. Amjad said Saturday was a government holiday and a decision on whether factories would remain closed that day would be announced.

Inspector Tarikul Islam, stationed at Chandana Chourasta on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway, said traffic was normal and no problems had been reported.

Dengue threat unlikely to ease before December

Experts call for targeted mosquito control measures



- Dengue cases may stay high through Nov
- 29 DSCC wards at high risk
- Most breeding sites near homes
- Lack of surveillance hampers dengue fight

HELEMUL ALAM

Dengue infections are likely to remain relatively high in November, with no significant decline expected until December, entomology experts have warned.

A recent survey by Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) identified 29 of its 75 wards as high-risk areas for Aedes mosquito breeding, while 28 were classified as moderately risky and 18 as low-risk.

The survey, conducted from September 27 to October 8, found Aedes mosquito larvae and pupae in 322 of the 2,250 houses inspected.

Of the identified breeding sites, 31.06 percent were in multi-storey buildings, 31.37 percent in independent houses, 17.39 percent in semi-permanent houses and 13.04 percent in buildings under construction.

Stagnant water on floors accounted for 12.26 percent of breeding sources, while plastic buckets accounted for 10.34 percent. Vacant plots were also identified as potential breeding grounds.

Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said dengue cases might decline slightly this month, but a significant reduction was more likely in December.

He said nearly 27 years of unsuccessful efforts to control dengue in Bangladesh showed the need for targeted, evidence-based mosquito control, particularly in residential areas.

The Insect Rearing and Experimental Station (IRES) of Jahangirnagar University, led by Bashar, conducts regular mosquito surveillance in Dhaka North City Corporation areas under an agreement between the two

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Malaysia lists 51 medical centres for Bangladeshi workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia's Foreign Workers Centralised Management System (FWCMS) has published a list of 51 accredited medical centres in Bangladesh where prospective workers can undergo mandatory health examinations ahead of the resumption of recruitment after a suspension of more than two years.

A visit to the FWCMS website yesterday found the names and addresses of the facilities listed under its "Accredited Medical Centres" section.

According to FWCMS, the centres are registered with their respective local government authorities and have undergone audits conducted by Malaysian company Bestinet Sdn Bhd.

Medical examinations are mandatory before workers can apply for electronic Visa with Reference (eVDR).

The listed facilities include Asia Diagnostic & Medical Centre Ltd, Global Medicare Diagnostic Center Ltd, Universal Medical College & Hospital Ltd, Aichi Hospital Ltd, Lab Quest Ltd and Vita Health Medical Center.

Most are located in Dhaka, while Shahida Khatun Digital Medical Centre is listed in Gazipur.

The development comes amid demands from recruiting agencies for faster medical approvals and fewer procedural obstacles.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



