

# Dengue kills 83 in India

**REUTERS, Mumbai**

India's best monsoon in a decade has triggered a wave of dengue fever that has killed at least 83 people across the country and infected more than 5,100 in one of the worst outbreaks in years.

"We fear the number of people infected could be three times more," a health ministry official told Reuters yesterday.

The mosquito-borne disease, which causes high fever and haemorrhaging, usually peaks during the annual monsoon,

normally infecting about 1,000 people a year.

Southern Kerala state has been the worst hit, with 63 deaths. Several people have also died in the Indian capital, New Delhi.

"We are distressed and worried for our children," said doctor Kiran Coelho, whose 23-year-old daughter and 17-year-old son were admitted to a hospital in Mumbai on Monday.

"There is no cure for the disease. Only supportive treatment is given."



Two children hold a placard calling for an end to high-pitched horns during a demonstration against noise pollution at Mohakhali yesterday. The Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon organised the protest.

# China launches space trip this week

**REUTERS, Beijing**

China will launch its first manned spaceship this week, aiming to become the third country after the Soviet Union and the United States to put a man in orbit.

The official Xinhua news agency said yesterday that the Shenzhou V would be launched between October 15 and 17 at an "appropriate time" from a launch pad in the Gobi desert in northwestern China and orbit the Earth 14 times.

It was the first official confirmation of the launch window on a mission China has kept under tight wraps.

"The Shenzhou V spacecraft will carry out the first manned space

mission and will lift off from the China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre," Xinhua quoted an official in charge of the country's space program as saying.

"Now all preparatory work for the launch is progressing smoothly."

Sources at two major state-run television stations and a tour operator told Reuters early this week the launch had been provisionally set for the morning of October 15, barring bad weather.

And Hong Kong's Beijing-backed Wen Wei Po newspaper said the craft would fly for 21 hours, or 90 minutes per orbit, before floating back down to Earth the next morning.

## DHAKA TODAY

- Film show** Time: 1.30pm.  
Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'AFS Cinema Closed'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.
- Workshop**  
The inaugural session of a five-day workshop for assistant judges to 'provide judicial training to complement ongoing legal and judicial reform efforts', organised by Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs, will be held. Venue: Auditorium of the institute, Dhanmondi. Time: 9.30am.
- Seminar**  
A seminar on 'Human resource development in SAARC countries and inter-education programme' will be held with State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haque Milon as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 8.45am.
- Rotary Dhaka Central**  
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh.
- Rotary North West**  
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5.00pm.
- IUBAT seminar**  
A seminar on 'Human resources strategy in transforming organisations', organised by International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), will be held with Prof H Eric Frank of the UK as guest speaker. IUBAT campus, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.
- IUB debate**  
The final round of the debating championship, organised by Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), will be held. Venue: IUB campus, Baridhara. Time: 10.30am.
- Conference**  
The inaugural session of a regional conference on education watch, organised by Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) in collaboration with Novib,

# Hospital waste management launched in city

**BSS, Dhaka**

Hospital waste management has been launched on a small scale in the city aiming to check recycling of used injection needles and saline syringes.

Under a pilot project incorporating 11 clinics and hospitals, injection needles and saline syringes are being destroyed, UNDP sources said on Thursday.

The project is being implemented by Initiative for people's Development (IPD), a non-government organisation.

The main objective of the project is to act as an eye opener for the policymakers. It is also aimed at creating awareness among con-

cerned people and finding a suitable technology to manage the hospital waste, the sources said.

Hospital staff including doctors, nurses and cleaners have also been made aware of the consequences of the unplanned disposal of the medical waste.

Under the project, the medical waste is collected in a hygienic manner at all the 11 clinics and taken to city's Bhashantek area, where the syringes and needles are destroyed.

"This is not a modern solution, but it is better than doing nothing," said IPD Secretary General Dr Mahmudur Rahman.

He said it is an attempt to check the spread of diseases like HIV/AIDS and jaundice, which are mainly caused by the use of recycled syringes.

Every day the capital city produces 4,500 to 5,000 tonnes of solid waste, one per cent of which is clinical or bio-medical garbage, said an official of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

The clinical waste includes saline and blood bags, syringes, injection

needles, plaster, separated human organs, foods, and remains of injection and distilled water.

Of the waste, the used syringes are currently being recycled by a vested group, who buy them from the poor collectors at a very cheap price and make those reusable under fake brands, sources said.

Used syringes have posed a serious threat to the civic life with high possibilities to spreading HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, said Tanzia Haque Hossain, national coordinator of LIFE, an UNDP-funded waste management project.

She said the medical waste is being sold and recycled in Dhaka and other major cities across the country. It is also polluting other wastes due to mixture with other solid wastes.

Management of medical waste is still at the planning level in the country. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) have recently signed a minutes to prepare a solid waste management master plan within 14 months from November this year.

Almost all the 600 city clinics and hospitals have no exclusive system required to dispose of their waste.

Eighty per cent doctors, nurses and lab technicians are not aware of the fact that different kinds of bio-waste should be kept in separate disposal bins to minimise the hazards from such waste, said a recent study of the voluntary organisation, Waste Concern.

# Health website for children

**REUTERS, London**

A health Website for children going into hospital was launched this week by Britain's National Health Service.

The site, www.childrenfirst.nhs.uk, contains more than 1000 pages of health information in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Greek and Turkish.

Children can find out what life is like in hospital and obtain facts about illnesses. They can also read other children's stories about problems such as bullying, contraception and pregnancy.

The content is compiled by the children's editorial team at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London, working with health professions.



The Bangladesh Clinical Psychology Association and the clinical psychology department of Dhaka University form a human chain in the city yesterday to mark the World Mental Health Day.

# Unite against misrule of govt: JSD

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu has termed the two years of four-party alliance government as a 'period of misrule'.

At a press conference on Thursday, Inu stressed the need for a greater unity of pro-liberation forces to stand against the misrule of the government.

He said his party has already started discussion with different political parties including Awami League, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Workers Party and Gonoforum to form a united platform against the government.

Inu alleged that the alliance government has politicised the administration and the judiciary and destroyed the economy of the country.

He said JSD has taken a country-wide human chain programmes between October 13 and 20 to press home their 11-point demand.

JSD General Secretary Syed Jafar Sazzad, Executive President Moeenuddin Khan Badol, and Joint Secretary Shirin Akhter were present at the conference.

# One killed in B'baria clash

**UNB, Brahmanbaria**

A young man was killed and 25 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups over construction of shop at Suhilpur village in Sadar upazilia yesterday.

The dead was identified as Khokon Mia, 24.

Both the groups used lethal weapons during one-and-a-half-hour battle.

Two shops and five houses were also damaged and looted.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Police were deployed in the village to ward off further trouble.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Moderate rain likely

**UNB, Dhaka**

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 22.0 degree Celsius at Dinajpur and Syedpur.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:36pm today and rises at 5:54am tomorrow.**

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.5	24.8	90	85
Chittagong	30.0	25.0	78	88
Rajshahi	26.4	23.6	93	91
Khulna	28.6	24.5	91	87
Barisal	28.5	26.0	93	--
Sylhet	27.2	24.0	98	95
Cox's Bazar	31.8	25.0	84	92



The annual exhibition of the Department of Architecture, BRAC University, began on the university campus on Wednesday. Vice-Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury inaugurated the exhibition that will continue till October 28.



Professor Dr Naiyuum Chowdhury, former chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, visits a stall after inaugurating the annual science fair of Bangladesh International School at DOHS, Mohakhali, yesterday. A total of 112 projects were presented at the fair.