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Dengue too may join in

Experts fear simultaneous outbreaks; say empty Dhaka can help Aedes mosquitos breed

HELEMUL ALAM

Sporadic rain and a relatively empty capital will make for an ideal breeding environment for the dengue-causing Aedes mosquitoes.

Clear and stagnant water in uncovered commodos, discarded containers, and reservoirs at construction sites may eventually be the source of armies of the mosquito in the coming weeks, experts fear.

If people had not emptied the water containers lying around the household, covered the commodos and any other places holding clear water before leaving for their villages, they are likely to return to an Aedes infested home, said Brig Gen Mominur Rahman Mamun, chief health officer at Dhaka North City Corporation.

According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), since January 1,269 people were treated at hospitals with dengue fever in Dhaka and 63 outside Dhaka.

"Rainfall will create an environment conducive for all kinds of mosquitoes, especially Aedes," Manzur Chowdhury, entomologist and former president of Zoological Society of Bangladesh, told The Daily Star.

"We are not giving adequate attention to prevent the Aedes, which may cause an outbreak in the coming months if steps are not taken," he added.

The Covid-19 and dengue outbreaks may happen simultaneously, Monzur said.

"In Singapore, there are patients carrying the two

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A tanker of Dhaka North City Corporation sprays bleach-mixed water on a street in Karwan Bazar yesterday to disinfect roads. The city corporations have also been seen spraying vehicles on the street with disinfectants.

PHOTO:
PALASH KHAN

CORONAVIRUS Legal actions for sharing rumours

PID press note says about social media and other means

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will sue people under the Digital Security Act for sharing or publicising rumours or confusing or unverified information on social media or through any other means during the 10-day closure to fight coronavirus.

In a press note yesterday, the Press Information Department (PID) asked people to be aware of rumours and make others aware during the coronavirus pandemic.

People have been requested to be cautious so that rumours and confusing or false information are not spread, said the press note.

The PID has specially requested all to verify any information on social media or other sources.

"Actions will be taken under the Digital Security Act for sharing or publicising confusing information

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4 'yaba traders' killed in Cox's Bazar 'gunfights'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Four alleged yaba traders were killed in separate "gunfights" with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and police in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf upazila early yesterday.

Of the incidents, three people -- supposedly from the Rohingya community -- were killed in an alleged gunfight with BGB.

They were smuggling yaba into the country, said BGB and police officials.

On information that a big yaba consignment was going to be smuggled into Bangladesh, a team of BGB took position on the bank of Naf river in Hnila union, said Lt Col Faisal Hassan Khan, commanding officer (CO) of Teknaf-2 BGB Battalion.

Around 4:00am, BGB men signalled a boat carrying around five people on board, the CO said.

Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the people on the boat opened fire on the border guards injuring three officials, Lt Col Faisal said.

In self-defence, BGB retaliated, triggering the "gunfight", he added.

At one stage, the miscreants tried to escape the scene, leaving the boat behind, the BGB official said.

Three were found at a nearby an

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH
BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

"Don't try to subvert nationalisation"



Bangabandhu is given a rousing welcome as he arrives in Chattogram on March 29, 1972 for a two-day visit.

MARCH 29, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MUJIB ADDRESSES MAMMOTH CTG MEETING

Bangabandhu today urges the people to dedicate themselves to the task of national reconstruction of the country subordinating their personal interests. Addressing a mammoth public meeting at the Polo Ground in Chattogram he says that if all people don't engage themselves in the task of reconstruction it will not be possible to save the nation. The prime minister says that his government is doing everything possible for the amelioration of the poor condition of the people. "I have no magic lamp in my hand," he says.

Urging people to work hard, Bangabandhu says that since his

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Civil surgeon hailed a hero

Goes out of his way to help pregnant woman deliver

RAFIUL ISLAM

As Rokhsana Akter started having labour pains, she was immediately taken to a private hospital in Lakshimpur's Chandraganj area on Friday morning.

Her family was elated, eagerly waiting to welcome a new member.

But their joy and excitement faded upon reaching the hospital.

The hospital authorities, amid the ongoing nationwide shutdown to contain the spread of coronavirus, could not find a doctor to operate on the woman, who already had two previous caesarian sections.

Then the district's Civil Surgeon Abdul Gaffar came to the rescue.

Hearing about the whole incident on the district hotline, Gaffar donned his gloves after years and he, along with another

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

STAY HOME, STAY WELL

Have an immune boosting diet

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

As the coronavirus situation intensifies, people are concerned about how to stay healthy.

While there is still no cure found for Covid-19, there are are ways to keep immune system functioning optimally, which can help people stay healthy and give them a sense of control in this uncertain time.

Proper handwashing practices, maintaining good nutrition, being physically active, meditating and managing stress, and getting adequate sleep are the keys to boost the immune system.

World Health Organisation's Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "Eat a healthy and nutritious diet, which helps your immune system function properly."

Filling up the plate with immune-boosting nutrients is one of the best ways to stay healthy because the immune system relies on a steady supply of nutrients to do its job, nutrition consultant Farzana Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday.

She said loading up on immune-boosting vitamins, minerals and antioxidants with plates full of vegetables and fruits is the effective way to boost the immune system.

The human body is made of about 75 percent water and the usual recommendation is eight

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Security fears at ATM booth grow in quiet Dhaka

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The 10-day shutdown that has been imposed to prevent contagious spread of coronavirus induced a sleep-like quiescence on the streets of Dhaka. Both security guards and users of the ATM booths in the capital are feeling the pinch of such an unprecedented emptiness.

Abdul Gani, security guard of an ATM booth in Jatrabari area, told The Daily Star that the eerie calmness was unbearable to him.

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 29

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-45 6-20 7-45
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 5-00 6-25 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Ignoring a sign, inset, hung on a TCB truck, people jostle to buy essentials at reasonable prices in Bandar Thana area of Chattogram city yesterday. Such behaviour could help spread coronavirus.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Mother, two children burnt to death in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and her two children were burnt to death as a fire broke out in their house in the capital's Mirpur early yesterday.

The dead are Kolpona, 30, her daughter Jannat, 12, and son Kauser, 10, said Shafiqur Rahman, a sub-inspector of Pallabi Police Station.

Firefighters said the fire might have started from a mosquito coil at the tin-roofed house in Bauniabad area around 4:30am. The blaze spread to three rooms, said Rasel Shikder, duty officer of fire service control room.

On information, two fire engines rushed to the spot and doused the flames around 6:30am.

Firefighters later recovered the three bodies from the house.

Autopsies were carried out on the bodies at the morgue of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College.

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