

FIRST DAY OF DRIVE

DNCC finds Aedes larvae at 131 spots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) yesterday found Aedes mosquito larvae at 131 houses and establishments on the first day of its 10-day combined operation.

The drive, which started in all 54 wards of the city corporation simultaneously at 10am, covered 11,969 houses, establishments and under construction buildings and found the larvae at 131 places.

The DNCC teams also found breeding sources at 8,380 more houses, under construction buildings and establishments during the drive that continued till 1pm.

The DNCC teams fined Tk 69,000 to the owners of eight houses and under construction buildings and warned rest of the houses and buildings.

The drive will continue for nine more days (except Friday) from 10am till 1pm. Earlier, DNCC divided each ward into ten sectors and each sector into ten sub-sectors to conduct the combined operations.

During the drive, DNCC teams asked the dwellers to keep their house clean and use masks when they come out of their homes.

Nine entomologists of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), three entomologists of DNCC, and officials of health and garbage management of DNCC are taking part in the drive.



A motorcyclist at New Market area travels with three pillion, including a child, none wearing helmets, while in Mugda, inset, five people crowd on a battery-run rickshaw, with little regard for social distancing or properly wearing masks. At a time when safety awareness needs to be heightened, some are walking in the opposite direction. The photos were taken yesterday.



Dedicated helpline for students in the offing

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government has started working on introducing a toll-free hotline for students so they can get assistance from teachers over phone.

The ministries of education; primary and mass education; and posts, telecommunications and information technology are jointly working to introduce the hotline -- 3336 -- as soon as possible.

They took the initiative to minimise the education loss incurred by students as schools remain closed due to coronavirus pandemic, and many fear that it might extend for several more months.

Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Director General Prof Syed Md Golam Faruk said if a student contacts the hotline, they will be instantly connected with teachers and the latter will give answers to any kind of questions via the hotline.

"Working hours of the hotline are yet to be finalised," said Faruk, adding, "We will launch the hotline soon."

The government started televised lectures for students amid the shutdown, while many schools on their own initiative also started online classes.

Officials said they have taken the initiatives for about 3.5 crore students of primary and secondary schools, as many of them still remain out of the purview any kind of education in absence of televisions and electronic devices.

"We are working on introducing the toll-free hotline 3336. About 2,500 teachers have already been connected," said State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak. "The government has started TV education; there is also online education but many students do not have access to those. We came up with the initiative to help them," he said.

All educational institutions in the country have remained closed since March 17 due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The government has now extended the closure till June 15 to stem the virus spread.

On April 27, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said educational institutions might remain closed until September if the situation does not improve.

The government started TV education through Sangsat TV for secondary

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SBMCH orthopaedic dept locked down

11 doctors, nurses test positive after two patients with Covid-19 got admitted hiding info

UNB, BARISHAL

The orthopaedic department of Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) has been put under lockdown after 11 doctors and nurses tested positive for coronavirus.

Other doctors and staff of the department have been sent on isolation.

The hospital authorities yesterday said two coronavirus patients came for treatment there, concealing their condition and they were admitted to the department.

"They hid the fact that they tested positive for Covid-19 and underwent treatment for several days," said surgeon Sudip Halder of the department.

"After learning about the truth of their condition, samples of all doctors and nurses from the department were sent for tests and 11 of them tested positive," Halder said, adding that they have locked down the department.

Those two patients were sent to the coronavirus ward of the hospital.

Thirty-five people died with coronavirus infections in the last 24 hours in the country, taking the death toll to 846, Directorate General of Health Services said yesterday.

LOWER COURT HEARINGS LAST WEEK 6,542 including 63 children secure bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lower courts across the country have granted bail to 6,542 people including 63 children in five working days last week.

With these bail orders, a total of 27,480 people including 406 children, accused of criminal charges, have secured bail from lower courts across the country in last 15 working days.

More than 300 courts have granted bail to the accused after holding virtual hearings of the petitions filed by them seeking bail in the cases against them, Supreme Court sources said yesterday.

The subordinate courts have disposed of total 47,626 petitions filed by the accused seeking bail in the cases against them.

The courts have disposed of total 14,340 bail petitions and granted bail to total 6,542 accused in five days last week (May 31 to June 4) in connection with the cases filed against them, according to the sources.

Most of the accused who were granted bail have already got released from jail.

Supreme Court Spokesman Md Saifur Rahman yesterday told The Daily Star that the Supreme Court Special Committee for Child Rights have taken necessary measures in association with the Unicef, and the country's social welfare ministry to release the children, who were granted bail, from Shishu Unnayan Kendra (Children Development Centres).

More than 300 children have already got released from Shishu Unnayan Kendra and they were taken in microbuses to their guardians.

Justice Muhammad Imman Ali, a senior judge of the Appellate Division

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Biman's 2nd charter flight to leave from London on June 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has arranged a second special flight from London to bring back Bangladeshi citizens stranded in the UK due to suspension of regular passenger flights.

On June 13, a charter flight of the national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines will depart from Heathrow Airport, London around 10am (London local time) carrying the Bangladeshi citizens, Bangladesh High Commission in the UK said in a press release.

Seat arrangements in the flight will be made maintaining social distancing while ticket prices have been set at 600 pounds for economy class and 1,435 pounds for business class, added the release.

The high commission has urged all passengers to register through the Bangladesh High Commission link -- <https://forms.gle/qFXRvriFCLUUVV857> -- to secure their seats.

On May 11, the government brought back 114 stranded Bangladeshis from the UK by a special flight of Biman.

Apart from the UK, Bangladesh so far brought back stranded Bangladeshis from the USA, Canada, Australia, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia.

Bangladesh suspended regular passenger flight operations on all international routes except for China since March 16 to contain the spread of Covid-19.

The government, however, resumed flights on three domestic routes from June 1.

55-yr-old man accused of raping sixth-grader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A sixth-grader was allegedly raped by a 55-year-old man in Homna upazila of Cumilla last Thursday morning.

The girl's mother filed a case on Friday accusing one Abdul Matin (55), son of Lalu Mia of the same village.

According to the case record, accused Abdul Matin was acquainted to the girl's family. On Thursday morning, he forcefully entered the family's house when the parents were outside for work, and the girl was with her younger brother at home.

He tied both children with a scarf and then raped the girl.

Hearing her screams, the girl's cousin came to see what happened, and Matin fled.

On Friday, the girl's mother filed a case with Homna police station.

Aminur Rasul, officer-in-charge of the station, said they are trying to catch the accused.

"Our drive will continue until he is arrested," the officer told this newspaper.

Stronger together

100 families in Aftabnagar start community farming, kitchen to see out tough times

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Sacked from their jobs or facing loss in their small businesses, the families now collect, cook, and share meals together.

On top of that, as money became scarce and kitchen supplies got pricier, the families started cultivating vegetables in empty housing plots in the Aftabnagar area, which is working wonders in loading up their grocery basket.

What's more, the food is not distributed based on how much effort one family puts in, but is shared equally among the 320 members of the hundred families.

The arrangement was started around two and a half months ago. As mid-March hit, most earners of these families started losing their job as construction workers, rickshaw-pullers, day-wage workers, and household staff.

This deeply concerned Israt Shiuly, an activist of cultural platform Samageet, who is behind this initiative. Out of worry, she chalked up a plan to put everything together. After a couple of days planning, Samageet and Shiuly started taking the idea to the families in the area.

Members of the families along with Samageet members started the project by building a temporary kitchen in the area, called "Samageet Joint Kitchen".

They contacted owners of the empty housing plots in the area with the proposal to grow vegetables. Many agreed.

As the plan started taking shape, other parties stepped up in solidarity -- both organisations and individuals. They helped with food donations at various times of need.

Being out of work is not a pleasant experience. It's not just because of the economics, but also because people like to be active. After the kitchen was set-up, those who were laid-off and were tired of the inactivity, jumped right in, as everybody started helping out to maintain the kitchen, source supplies, and cook together.



Locals -- both men and women -- grow vegetables in empty plots and process chickens (below) together, soon to be cooked and shared.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Urban workers who usually work in environments made up of cement, concrete and ceramic, have now almost become full-fledged peasants. With their trusty garden tools, they cultivate the borrowed

land to their heart's content.

The list of vegetables they grow include red spinach, jute spinach, pumpkin, eggplant, chili and more. Freshly sown and freshly plucked, the herbs contribute a lot to the kitchen's stocks.

"The idea came out of socialist sentiments," Shiuly said. According to her, communities are much more necessary for survival than staying individualistic. Sure, some will win the race and get all the spoils, but for the many, coexistence is the way to go, especially during times of trouble, she said.

Things at Aftabnagar's joint kitchen gained a festive air during the month of Ramadan. Everyone ate sehri and iftar together, and shared whatever donations they received with each other. Eid was also special as they were all together, Shiuly told this correspondent.

FOUR YEARS OF MITU MURDER

Case handed to PBI after 'frustrating' investigation

FM MIZANUR RAHMAN, Cg

The case filed in connection with the gruesome murder of Mahmuda Khanam Mitu, wife of former Superintendent of Police (SP) Babul Akter, has been handed over to the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) from Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP), after three years of investigation.

The case was silently transferred following a court order. However, the reason behind the transfer has not been disclosed.

CMP officials said they had almost wrapped up the investigation, but the victim's father was supposedly frustrated over CMP's handling of the case.

Even the family did not know about the transfer.

Yesterday marked four years since the brutal murder took place, in broad daylight.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, CMP Commissioner Md Mahabubur Rahman said, "We had almost completed

our investigation, but the case was handed over a few months ago following a court order."

"We had gathered several findings during our investigation, but now, PBI knows the case's last status," the commissioner added.

He, however, refused to disclose the findings when asked.

Contacted, PBI Chattogram Metro Unit Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Moin Uddin said, "We received the case documents shortly before the pandemic started, in February. We will find vital information through

analysing the documents and will conduct investigation in our own way."

"As the case is new to us, we will further interrogate the witnesses and plaintiff Babul Akter," the ADC added.

Earlier, Mohammed Kamruzzaman, ADC (prosecution) of CMP and immediate past investigation officer of the case,

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Mahmuda Khanam Mitu

Celebrating a Life
Rasul Shafi Chaudhury (Hilu)
July 1955 – May 2020

Rasul Shafi Chaudhury (Hilu) Managing Director of Plastoccats Limited and ccats passed on to his eternal abode on Saturday 16th May, 2020 at the United Hospital, Dhaka after braving his illness for over a year. He was laid to eternal rest in a serene setting beside his father, G. S. Chaudhury at their ancestral home at Joypara, Dohar the same day.

He left behind his mother Mrs. Anwara Chaudhury, wife Nafisa Chaudhury (Jhama), son Asaan Rasul Chaudhury (Asaan), sister Kishwar Sakhawat (Kishu), sisters in law Zinath and Shafina, brothers Ashfaq S. Chaudhury (Revol), Anwar S. Chaudhury (Evo) and Tahsin Siddique (Shomi), nieces and nephews Nashra, Inshra, Ariba, Rodita, Ahnaf, Zaryab, 4 grandchildren and many others to pray for his departed soul.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Shareholders, Officers, workers and all the members of Plastoccats Family.
Dhaka, Bangladesh