

Bubonic plague kills 3 in Mozambique

MAPUTO, Oct 5: Three people have died from suspected bubonic plague in central Mozambique, the health ministry said today, reports Azad.

It said 127 suspected plague cases had been reported between September 21 and 29 in Tete province's Matarara district bordering Malawi. Three people had died.

In Delhi a senior Indian health official today declared the plague crisis nearly over, saying that only a fraction of the suspected cases tested positive for the disease.

Several Gulf States, meanwhile, were expected to resume flights to India this week after severing air and shipping lines, said Civil Aviation and

Demolition of tilted bldg begins

By Staff Correspondent

Demolition of the tilted six-storey building at Kalyanpur in the city began yesterday morning.

A number of labourers engaged by the owner of the building demolished the water tank on the roof of the building and a portion of the top floor on the first day.

The building - Nandan Apartments - tilted suddenly by several centimetres Sunday. Engineers of the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartirpakkha (Rajuk) thought that the building tilted because it was constructed on the basis of improper soil test.

There are 12 apartments in the building with a floor space of 2400 square feet in each storey. Ten of those sold to different families while its owners, Siddiqu Rahman, kept two for themselves.

"I am ready to bear the losses. I have already talked to seven of the 10 owners of the flats and promised to build them apartments with similar features in the near future," Siddiqu Rahman told The Daily Star last night.

Romena was arrested from the house of her step-sister Jamila Khatun at Char Govinda village in Manikganj.

Police also recovered gold ornaments weighing about 20-25 tolas and Tk 8080 in cash that she had taken away from the Chowdhury's residence when she fled after committing the murders.

Romena said that she had gone straight to her step-sister's house at around 7:30 in the evening the same day, but she did not tell her sister anything about the murders.

Meanwhile, qu khwan of Nilufer Chowdhury, who was an Assistant Professor at the city's Home Economics College, and her daughter Shoma, a second year student of the Mymensingh Medical College, were held at Nilufer's parents' house in Dhamondi Road 8 after Asr prayers yesterday.

Suspected plague sufferer dies while escaping hospital

NEW DELHI, Oct 5: A suspected plague sufferer died while trying to escape from a state-run New Delhi hospital where patients are being isolated, newspapers reported today, reports AFP.

Hartal observed in Islampur of Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 5: A half-day hartal was observed in the Islampur area of Sylhet today in protest against the hooliganism, terrorism and illegal collection of tolls by some organised gangs.

All shops, mills and factories, offices and educational institutions remained closed during the six-hour hartal called by the local people. All types of vehicles remained off the streets.

A protest meeting was held at Islampur Bazar with Md Shahabuddin in the chair while it was addressed by Alhaj Lal Miah Abdur Rashid, Abdul Matin, Manzur Ahmed and Firoze Uddin. A big procession was brought out in the area.

Another meeting was held with Moulana Abdul Quayum in the chair. Both the rallies demanded immediate arrest of the gang members involved in the illegal activities in the area.

Another report says, Class III and Class IV government employees in Sylhet observed a two-hour strike today as part of the programmes called by the Sarkari Karmachari Oikya Jote.

Rape victim gets legal aid

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity, a forum of women lawyers, is to provide legal aid to a young girl, Nazma, who was allegedly raped by a group of people in Feni on September 28.

Following the incident Nazma reportedly attempted to commit suicide.

The Samity members will oversee the conduct of the case in the court of the First Class Magistrate, Feni, on October 4.

Nazma identified one Nurul Islam as one of the culprits involved in the alleged crime. Islam was arrested on October 1.

The Samity in a press release yesterday alleged that the local police station had initially refused to register the case despite a specific allegation and traces of injury on the victim's body. On the contrary, the police even filed a charge against Nazma under Section 290 of the BPC accusing her of being involved in unsocial activities.

She was then sent to court which, after recording her statement, ordered a police inspector to investigate.

Monsoon

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in Rajshahi, 110mm to 130mm in Khulna and 180 to 200mm in Barisal divisions.

A depression may also form over the Bay at the end of this month.

The monsoon had set over Bangladesh in early June. "Activity of the monsoon and monsoon depression are the two major sources of rainfall in this season," a Met official noted.

In September, Dhaka Division experienced only 13.6mm of rainfall as against the normal 252mm. It was 46 per cent below the normal. In Chittagong the rainfall was 45 per cent below the normal while in Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions, the rainfall was 26 per cent, 50 per cent and 60 per cent respectively below the normal.

The rainfall recorded in July and August was almost similar but it was a little higher in June.

Met office sources said that in 1992 the monsoon rainfall was 30 per cent below the normal. In 1979 also, a failed monsoon was recorded.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim saw-off the officers and troops of the first flight at the ZIA.

Talking to them, General Nasim said members of the

Bangladesh

troops start leaving for Haiti

Bangladesh contingent to the Multinational Force (MNF) for the restoration of democracy in Haiti started leaving Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

On the first day of the transport schedule, 490 officers and troops left the Zia International Airport (ZIA) in the morning, according to ISPR sources.

Four C141 aircraft of the United States Air Force (USAF) carried 440 troops while one C5 cargo plane took 50 troops and military equipment of the contingent.

All flights will transit the Pacific with a brief stop-over in Hawaii on the way to their destination at the MNF staging area in Puerto Rico.

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Met office sources said that in 1992 the monsoon rainfall was 30 per cent below the normal. In 1979 also, a failed monsoon was recorded.

Contingent Commander Colonel Alauddin Mohammad Abdul Wadud also left Dhaka by the first flight.

Chew said the dog was trained and had never attacked anyone.

Plastic surgery hospital to be set up : Huda

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Oct 5: Information Minister Nazmul Huda has said a plastic surgery hospital would be set up in the country. Necessary cooperation and assistance from abroad would be sought for the purpose, he added.

The information minister was inaugurating a ten-day plastic surgery camp at a private clinic here this afternoon.

A 13-member British team of plastic surgeons is performing operations in the camp jointly sponsored by Dudu Miah, a Bangladeshi community leader living in the UK and the Noorjahan Poly Clinic, Sylhet. Patients are being operated upon free of cost.

The minister also said the government was trying its best to meet the five basic needs of the people. It was also working hard to ensure the minimum health facilities for the people.

Lauding the endeavours of the sponsors, the minister assured of all possible help in future for such humanitarian purposes anywhere in the country.

The function was also addressed by Dr Naseem Ahmed and Saleem Ahmed of the Noorjahan Poly Clinic, community leader Dudu Miah, Dr Maniruzzaman Chowdhury of the Stone Crush Hospital, Dhaka. Professor Golam Kibria, Principal, Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College, presided.

The Prime Minister urged all to work unitedly for strengthening the democratic process. "If you have responsibility to strengthen democracy, let us work unitedly."

She also stressed the need for educating the people and creating awareness among them for ensuring overall development of the country.

Begum Zia said the BNP government has given importance to women's development and provided loans to them to attain self-reliance. She urged the rural women to avail the loans and build poultry and dairy farms.

Referring to manpower export, the Prime Minister said this government has sent about 7.50 lakh Bangladeshi abroad.

The attack provoked heated debate among those who thought Le Roc had done no wrong and others who saw the dog as a deadly menace.

The 13.5-kilogramme (30-pound) Rottweiler had been alternately described in news reports as a gentle pet and a beast which terrorised passersby.

Chew said the dog was trained and had never attacked anyone.

According to sources, newsprint is being smuggled in through different routes along the border under the district.

When contacted, police officials said they were not aware of such smuggling.

Khaleda-Mahathir

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has already reduced the tariff on Malaysian palm oil.

During the visit, the two prime ministers are expected to review the outcome of the Joint Commission meeting held in the Malaysian capital from August 17 to 19. The Bangladesh side was led by Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman.

The Bangladeshi Prime Minister will convey her personal thanks to her Malaysian counterpart for agreeing to take 50,000 skilled and semi-skilled workers from Bangladesh annually. An agreement to that effect was reached on September 25 by Malaysian Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Dato Megah Junaid and Bangladesh Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury. Malaysia currently employs over one lakh Bangladeshi workers.

During the visit, there would be a follow up of sharing experiences between the two countries on drug detection, prevention and treatment of addicts.

Begum Zia is also scheduled to visit the factory of Proton Saga, Malaysia's world class car manufacturing plant.

The Prime Minister will also visit the famous tourist resort at Langkawi and spend a night there.

Begum Zia will have an audience with the King.

The entourage of the Prime Minister will include Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister Mosharraf Khan, Principal Secretary A N M Yusuf, Additional Foreign Secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed, the DG of the Foreign Ministry, Far East Anwarul Alam. A media team will also accompany the Prime Minister.

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

The Midnight File

US ready to send troops to Golan Heights

WASHINGTON, Oct 5: The United States is prepared to send troops to the disputed Golan Heights once Syria and Israel reach a peace agreement. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said here. Christopher speaking to journalists late Tuesday following talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, said the troops would be sent as part of an international peacekeeping force, reports AFP.

12 killed in Pak bus mishap

ISLAMABAD, Oct 5: At least 12 people were killed and 26 injured in a head on crash between two passenger buses in the Pakistani province of Punjab today, an official report said. The collision occurred near the village of Lak in Phalia district, the report said, adding that seven injured people were in serious condition in hospitals, reports APP.

Opposition : Khaleda

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Presided by then BNP president Rafiuddin Talukder, the meeting was also addressed by State Minister for Establishment Aminul Huq, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, local MP Major (retd) Shahjahan Omar, Prof Mahfuzul Huq and Barisal district BNP president Principal Abdur Rashid.

Later, the Prime Minister held a meeting with the district administration and asked the officials to create employment opportunities for women and youths.

Begum Zia instructed the officials to stop misuse of resources and distribute fertilizer among the farmers at fair price. She also asked them to take proper measures for disbursing loans.

China: Missile

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global ban on such technology exports and to consider joining the international accord, which it claims to observe.

The two countries agreed to work together to promote missile nonproliferation through a step-by-step approach to resolve differences over missile exports, the announcement said.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who signed the agreement for the United States, called it "a very important step forward."

"This is a global and verifiable ban on Chinese exports of all missiles within the 300 kilometre range and a payload of at least 500 kilograms," he said.

Christopher said US monitoring of China's compliance would be easy, and that China had made an unambiguous commitment.

Qian insisted, as Beijing has consistently, that China had not violated the international accord in the first place.

"China does not engage in proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including missiles outside the MTCR regime," he said.

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