

Cerebral malaria claims 25 in Cox's Bazar

From Abdul Moniem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 15: Twenty-five villagers have died from a sudden outbreak of cerebral malaria at Barachura, near Cox's Bazar town over the past fortnight.

Over one hundred malarial patients had been brought from the village for treatment at different clinics and hospitals till this evening. Their conditions were stated to be critical.

Some 1500 people out of about 4000 living in Barachura under Jhiliangia union were suffering from the disease, villagers told this correspondent today.

The disease started taking its toll in the village from the first week of August. The village, only six kilometres south of the Cox's Bazar town, has practically no communication with other parts of the region due to its remoteness and inaccessible terrain.

The Civil Surgeon of Cox's Bazar Dr Md Abdul Baki told this correspondent that cerebral malaria had spread alarmingly in this area and in the last four days blood test at his laboratory revealed 377 villagers out of 971 tested were carrying the malaria germs.

Cases of cerebral malaria, not uncommon in the remote Hill Tracts, are relatively unknown in this part. Unlike common malaria where patients suffer from high fever often for over a month, a person suffering from cerebral malaria can die within eight hours, the Civil Surgeon said.

According to him a five-member medical team has been working in Barachura for the past two weeks but they are yet to control the disease.

Meanwhile many villagers have fled their homes in panic while many others are to follow suit, villagers said.

The district health department has taken up an urgent scheme to spray 'Delta Methrin', a mosquito repellent, in the village.

The three-day programme, scheduled to begin tomorrow, would provide a safety shield for majority of the villagers. The health department also plans to distribute 200 mosquito nets.

The authorities have already handed out 6200 chloroquin and 300 primaquine tablets among the villagers.

The civil surgeon also told The Daily Star that there was sufficient stock of necessary

medicine at his disposal to fight the disease.

Surrounded by the Bay of Bengal in the west and hills in the east, this remote village had a population of less than 1500 only a year ago.

Some 11 months ago, the authorities rehabilitated some 700 floating families who were living in shuns in various parts of Cox's Bazar along the beach. But since their rehabilitation, no initiatives had been taken to provide health care facilities, villagers alleged.

Chittagong division is a high-risk area for malaria, according to the World Health Organisation.

JN Hall roof collapse

DU observes mourning day

By DU Correspondent

Teachers, students and employees of the Dhaka University observed mourning day yesterday.

On this day in 1985, 39 people including students and employees of the university were killed in a roof collapse in the Jagannath Hall's TV room.

About 103 others were injured in the mishap. The students were enjoying a popular BTV serial "Shuktara" at the time of the incident.

To mark the day, teachers, different student organisations and students' unions of the university placed wreaths at the October memorial building in the Jagannath Hall premises yesterday morning.

Later, in the afternoon a memorial meeting was held at the TSC auditorium presided over by the acting Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Wakil Ahmed.

The meeting was also addressed by Prof Lalit Mohan Nath, Jagadish Chandra Shukla, Fakir Alamgir and Shubhash Singh.

Earlier, special prayers were held at the central mosque and hall mosques after Asr prayers. Besides, prayers were held by the members of Hindu, Buddhist and Christian communities at the Jagannath Hall in the morning.

Black flags were hosted on the main buildings of the university and a blood donation programme was also arranged on the day.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at the Mymensingh Circuit House ground yesterday

— Star photo

Hasina

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keep that promise."

Hasina expressed her solidarity with those demanding that the greater Mymensingh region be made a division.

She also called for opening the mills and factories shut down in recent years.

UNB adds: Referring to the BNP's argument that there is no constitutional provision for a caretaker government, Hasina said late President Ziaur Rahman had come to power through martial law and wanted to know if there was any constitutional provision for martial law.

She said that all constitutional amendments starting from the Fifth to Tenth were designed to legalise the illegal powers of the autocrats. The military rule of Zia was ratified by the Fifth Amendment, protecting his personal interest, she said.

The Constitution, which is the property of the people, should be amended to reflect the will and interest of the people, and not the personal interests of any individual, she maintained.

Bangladesh spends Tk 7.10 cr for Rohingyas

Government has spent Tk 7.10 crore for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh early 1991, reports UNB.

Foreign countries, the United Nations, international donor agencies, and the NGOs extended their assistance later.

India launches powerful space rocket

SRIHARIKOTA (India), Oct 15: India today successfully launched its most powerful space rocket to become the world's fifth nation with the capability of placing one-tonne orbit. scientists said. reports AFP.

Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao described the flawless flight of the 132-foot (44 metre) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) as a matter of "great pride and satisfaction for the entire nation."

The 283-tonnes PSLV blasted off at 10:38 am (0508 GMT) into a clear blue sky from this space centre situated on the coast of the Bay of Bengal in southern India, the scientists said.

It's heat-shield separated at an altitude of 117 kilometres (70.2 miles) as the rocket carrying a huge satellite entered its second stage after 2.56 minutes of flight, the scientists said.

Scientists cheered as the rocket, powered by six strap-on motors, placed the 870-kilogramme (1,194-pound) remote-sensing satellite into orbit 825 kilometers (495 miles) above the earth after a perfect 17 minute voyage.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan wept in joy as scientists tracking the rocket on monitors said all its sub systems were in order.

With this launch, India has crossed yet another milestone in its journey to complete self-sufficiency and technological in the area of space applications.

The ISRO said and congratulated the ISRO for the successful launch.

Karnataka

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The Karnataka capital, where 26 people were killed in four days of savage fighting sparked by Hindu anger over the start of Urdu-language news broadcast on state-run television.

The broadcast, later suspended pending political talks, were banned by the election commission until after December 1 when Karnataka ends two-stage voting for a new assembly.

The commission accused the Karnataka government of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's Congress Party of breaching election codes that forbid measures deemed political in the run-up to the polls.

DCC commissioners

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A total of 40 candidates contested the election.

The mayor and 90 ward commissioners of the DCC elected on January 30 last voted to elect the woman commissioners.

The election through secret ballot was held at the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka, who was the Returning Officer for the election. Voting continued from 10 am to 4 pm.

Of the 90 ward commissioners elected on January 30, 34 are from the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). 15 had no party affiliation and the rest are mostly from the Awami League.

Witnesses said party workers of the AL and the BNP gathered in front of the DC's office from the morning. Security in the area was tightened with deployment of additional police force in the DC's office premises.

Mayor of the DCC and Awami League leader Mohammad Hanif, former mayor and BNP leader Mirza Abbas, MP, Salauddin Ahmed MP, Mohammad Mohsin, MP, and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya were present at the election venue. The leaders and supporters of the parties waited till the Returning Officer announced the election results in the afternoon.

The newly elected woman commissioners and their supporters later brought out a victory procession.

Rajuk projects

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construction of new roads in the area instead of the housing project. As a result, the Rajuk had postponed the work on the project but later resumed work.

A Project Concept Paper had recently been forwarded to the ministry concerned, a Rajuk official said. Initiated in 1992, this project might make progress provided the PCP is approved and no further obstacles are made by the affected people, the official added.

A total of 5200 plots — both residential and commercial — would be developed under the project for the middle class people. Highrise buildings will be built under the project. It will also provide for educational, healthcare and recreational facilities.

The Rajuk had abandoned the Satellite Town Project at Panchabatia last year as local people strongly resisted acquisition of their lands. Rajuk had taken up the project in 1991 covering an area of 405 acres to develop 2855 plots.

Rajuk had to give up the project since the lands that could be acquired were too inadequate for it, officials explained.

Corruption case against ex-UNO of Zakiganj

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 15: The district Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed a case against former Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Zakiganj, Khorsheed Alam and one Haji Ilyas Ali of village Khola Daponia under Zakiganj thana, on charges of causing loss to the exchequer.

Khorsheed Alam is presently a Senior Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.

The case in brief is that in 1989 Alam, as chairman of the lease committee, had leased out Kaliganj Bazar to Haji Ilyas Ali for an amount of Tk 9 lakh 51 thousand only in violation of the rules. Alam and Haji Ilyas Ali, in collusion, caused the government a loss of Tk one lakh and 75 thousand.

Housewife killed

Another report says, a young housewife was beaten to death, allegedly by her husband, at village Taimur Nagar under Islampur union of Companyganj thana today.

Ali Hossain reportedly beat up his wife, Asia Begum yesterday for having refused to bring money from her father's house. Asia later died.

Asia, who was seven months pregnant, left behind one son and a daughter.

Ali Hossain was caught by the villagers today and handed over to police.

World Food Day

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In a separate message, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said the World Food Day was being observed throughout the world under the auspices of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to create awareness for ensuring man's basic need — food.

Animal and plant constitute the life cycle on earth and water is the essential element of life, she said referring to the theme of the day.

In another message, Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for building up a sound food security system to combat hunger and poverty in the world.

She expressed concern over the reports of drought in the country's northern region and feared that food deficit might surpass all past records.

The Midnight File

US pushes for swift vote at UN

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 15: The United States pushed for a swift vote today on a Security Council resolution barring further Iraqi military threats to Kuwait, disregarding Russia's requests for a one-day delay. "We made a lot of progress and I have every reason to believe we will have a resolution by the end of the day," US Ambassador Madeleine Albright said after council consultations. But it was not clear when a vote would occur as Russia, France and numerous other council members have submitted amendments to the US draft, co-sponsored by Britain, reports Reuter.

Chechen rebels storm Grozny

GROZNY, Russia, Oct 15: Rebel troops intent on overthrowing the leader of a separatist region in southern Russia seized part of the capital Saturday as gunfire resounded throughout the city. Russian news agencies reported. The vice president of Chechnya's regional government appealed on television for residents to take up arms as opposition forces stormed Grozny and took over the southeastern district, reports AP.

Iraq pulling back troops : Perry

US now optimistic of peaceful outcome

Civil understanding because of a translation error was at the root of the US rejection of Iraq's offer to recognise Kuwait. Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said in Kuwait today.

In the joint statement, Iraq said that in line with a UN resolution, it was prepared to recognise Kuwait and respect the new border drawn up between the two countries by the United Nations after the 1991 Gulf War.

President Clinton had said statements made in Baghdad by Kozyrev were inconsistent with comments made earlier by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the Washington Post reported.

Aristide

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heightened alert. More than two dozen Sheridan light tanks took up strategic posts in the capital, and US helicopters crisscrossed the skies. American troops manned sandbag positions atop the National Palace.

Accompanying Aristide were US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Sens Christopher Dodd and Tom Harkin, as well as members of the US Congressional Black Caucus.

Aristide appeared at the plane door and waved to the crowd, wearing a red and blue sash across his chest. He was greeted with applause as he stepped down to the tarmac.

Christopher was to lead the American delegation attending an afternoon ceremony at the National Palace, where Aristide would once again address his nation.

An earlier plane from Washington carried more dignitaries, including Dante Caputo, UN special envoy to Haiti. The Carnival Air Lines charter touched down at 10:43 am.

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh

Head Office, Dhaka

Notice of the Eighteenth Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) will be held on Sunday, the 27th November, 1994 at 3:00 PM at the Head Office of the Corporation at BSB Building (12th floor), 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka to transact the following business:

- To confirm the minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting held on the 23rd December, 1993;
- To receive and adopt the audited accounts of the Corporation for the year 1 July, 1993 to 30 June, 1994 and report on the working of the Corporation during the said year;
- To declare dividend;
- Any other business with the permission of the Chair.

By Order of the Board
of Directors
Md. Abdur Rahman Khan
Secretary

Dated: 6 October, 1994

NOTES:

- The Register of transfer of shares of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh shall remain closed from the 9th November, 1994 to the 27th November, 1994 (both days inclusive).
- A shareholder entitled to attend at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to attend in his/her behalf but such proxy must be a shareholder of the Corporation. The proxy form must be affixed with required revenue stamp and should be deposited at the Head Office of the Corporation before 72 hours of the time fixed for the meeting.

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JMB dredging today

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