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Dengue in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, July 29: Six people with dengue fever were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) and Upasham Clinic on Friday night.

Condition of two undergoing treatment in the clinic are critical, said Dr Nazmul Ahsan, Associate professor of KMCH.

The first victim of dengue fever is Shahed Parvez, 25, an M. Com examinee from Azam Khan Commerce College and son of Professor Mujibar Rahman of Sonadanga.

Arrangements are being made to send two other dengue patients to Dhaka for better treatment. They are Feroza Begum, 48, of Pabla village under Daulatpur thana and Al Amin, 25, of Morrelganj in Bagerhat district.

City dwellers are now scared of the prevalence of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF). There is no Dengue test kit in any of the two hospitals here.

Meanwhile, Acting Mayor of KCC has appealed to the city dwellers to actively participate in elimination of Aedes mosquito.

The Civil Surgeon, Khulna said all possible measures would be taken for treatment of dengue patients.

Clash during KU concert: 14 held

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, July 29: Fourteen outsiders were arrested on Friday night for their alleged involvement in the fierce clash during an open concert on Khulna University (KU) campus on Thursday night, police said today.

OC of Batiaghata thana filed a case as complainant on Friday while an official of KU filed a general diary.

Guardians of the arrested outsiders have strongly protested police action and blamed some unruly students of the university for creating chaos during the open concert on KU campus.

On the other hand, the teachers and students of the university have demanded adequate security measures on the campus.

Rape: Seven arrested at N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, July 29: Police today arrested seven people on charge of violating a teenage garments worker on Thursday.

The arrested are Masum, 20, Akbar, 19, Mizan, 20, Anwar, 21, Jalal, 20, Shafiqur, 22 and Manju, 20.

They were arrested from Chandmari of Fatullah thana, police said.

Police said the gang of seven swooped on the garments worker aged about 18 while she was returning home at about 8 pm on Thursday.

They took her to a place in the area and raped her.

Local people later rescued the girl in an unconscious state and sent her to Narayanganj hospital.

Victim's sister filed a case with Fatullah thana in this connection.

The arrested were produced before a court here today for recording their confessional statement, police said.

3-member body at Gopalganj to probe bomb incident

From Our Correspondent
GOPALGANJ, July 29: A three-member committee to investigate the bomb planting incident arrived here today.

The members of the committee are DIG Dhananjay Sarkar, Senior SP of CID Majibur Rahman and Senior SP of Special Branch Golam Mostafa.

Meanwhile, two persons including a police constable today left for Habiganj to identify one Abdul Hannan who was earlier arrested there in connection with the bomb incident.

Shibir worker held at Chokoria

COX'S BAZAR, July 29: Police arrested an Islamic Chhatra Shibir worker at village Lakkhar Char in Chokoria upazila today, reports UNB.

Abul Hashem of Panchlaish in Chittagong city was arrested from a hideout here, said police who suspected his involvement in the eight murders in Chittagong.

Dengue infection

Anti-body test not necessary: Experts

Dismissing the necessity of anti-body test for identification of dengue fever, medical experts yesterday urged the people not to undergo the test as it is not necessary for treatment but an economic burden, reports UNB.

They also urged the people not to be panicked because almost all the dengue patients recovered from the disease. People should not worry for blood or platelet transfusion, they said.

The experts further urged the physicians not to send dengue patients for laboratory test, particularly anti-body test.

The observation and call came at a press conference on "Dengue Fever" by Association of Physicians of Bangladesh (AOPB) at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the morning.

The press conference was arranged to dispel the fear and explain how to scientifically overcome the disease.

There was also a panel discussion on the topic in which BSMU vice-chancellor Prof M A Quadri, Prof Tofael Ahmed, Prof Mohammad Fazlul Huq, Prof Mobin Khan and Prof Abdul Jalil took part. It was presided over by Prof Mahmud Hasan, president of AOPB and its general secretary Dr Syed Atiqul Haq conducted.

Prof M N Alam, head of the Medicine department at BSMU, in his key-note paper presented at the conference said prevalence of dengue has not yet taken an epidemic form, but a large scale out-break.

He said anti-body (IgG & IgM) test is not necessary for identification of dengue fever as it has no role in treating the disease.

Prof Alam said the role of laboratory is insignificant in treating dengue cases.

He said treatment of dengue

is taken on the basis of symptoms. If the symptom is fever, then one can take paracetamol tablet and should drink plenty of water.

Taking Aspirin and other drugs except paracetamol for pain and fever are prohibited, Prof Alam said.

About the time of admission in hospital he said one should be admitted in case of excessive bleeding, sudden fall of blood pressure and severe abdominal pain and respiratory problem.

Dr Syed Atiqul Haq said he found that many people had done blood test at their own initiative. "I have not sent any dengue patient for anti-body test."

It is not fair if physicians send patients to laboratory for blood test without monitoring the disease, he added.

Prof Mobin Khan, head of Hepatology department (deals with liver) at BSMU said, one should not be scared as 99 per cent dengue patients were cured.

Dr Mobin said dengue fever would not happen from biting of all aedes mosquito except those carried dengue virus.

"None should be panicked as it reduces the resistance power of human body," said Dr Mohammad Fazlul Huq, Professor of Medicine department at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

He said sometimes people become panic when diarrhoea is branded as cholera. "People are found sick in panic situation," he told the newsmen.

Citing an example Prof Mahmud said, "I have seen one of my relative had become worried for platelet transfusion without necessity."

To increase awareness, he said they have taken steps and will hold a seminar on dengue shortly.



Anwara Park at Farmgate in the city has been subjected to sheer negligence by the Dhaka City Corporation for long. The fountain of the park is now a breeding ground of mosquitoes and the park itself a trash can. — Star photo

An evidence of extreme negligence

Anwara Park is now a safe haven for drug addicts and vagabonds

By Staff Correspondent

When internationally famed architect Louis Kahn designed the Second Capital along with the monumental Sangsad Bhaban in 1963, the historic plan meticulously shed light on environmental, social, economic and aesthetic aspects. At least that is what architects and planners now want to believe.

The present day Anwara Public Park at Farm Gate, a part of Kahn's creations, could be a shocking sight for many. Over its three-acre space, the park bears evidence of too much negligence on the part of the authorities concerned, the Department of Arboriculture (DA).

Anwara Park, situated at one of the busiest intersections in the city, is now a safe haven for drug addicts, vagabonds, beggars and male and female prostitutes.

Officials of the DA were unable to say how many people were assigned to maintain the park but they said lack of coordination and negligence of electrical and engineering wings of the Public Works Department (PWD) is contributing to the poor condition of the park.

"Our responsibility is to maintain only the landscape of the park only," said an engineer at the DA office.

Most of the concrete benches in the park are broken and the grass on the lawn has either over grown or has disappeared due to lack of maintenance. The fountain by the VIP road has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes with rubbish and contaminated water in it. At least four places in different parts of the park have been turned into open public toilets. The small guard room-cum-fountain pump on the western side has been rented to outsiders by the 'guard' who is always busy at the Sangsad Bhaban, one source pointed out.

As night falls, the park turns into a spot of various anti-social activities. Only two lights out of about 50 could be seen working. In the darkness, clients and prostitutes openly bargain for a deal. Drug sellers move around to find prospective buyers. Male prostitutes approach any one sitting or hanging around for a 'cheap massage'. Most of the 'exclusive activities' take place on the eastern side of the park which has more bushes.

"The electrical wing of PWD is to look after lighting system, the fountain and the fencing are to be repaired by its engineering wing and security is to be maintained by the local PWD office. We are responsible for maintenance of the trees, bushes and plants," said the DA engineer.

"More than two lakh people come to Farm Gate area every day. There are hundreds of legal and illegal shops but how many public toilets are there?" the engineer asked explaining why people were using parts of Anwara Park as toilets.

Meanwhile, the local Ward Commissioner recently approached DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif to allocate a large area in the park on the western side for a mosque-cum-shopping complex.

The Commissioner is learnt to have been moved by the lack of prayer space for hundreds of people of the area. His plan included a three-storied building with a mosque on the top floor. The first two floors would be turned into shopping centres, he was quoted as saying.

The Mayor sent the file to DCC's Estate Officer, who pointed out that the park belonged to PWD and therefore 'nothing could be done'. The Mayor is now holding the file, one source said.

Rangpur arson case: Hearing today

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 29: Hearing in the sensational case of arson, looting and terrorism in Gangachhara upazila will begin tomorrow in the court of District and Sessions Judge here.

Eighty people have been charged in the case. There are 115 prosecution witnesses. Deposition will begin tomorrow and will continue for five days.

The prosecution story of the case is that on April 18, 2000 several hundred armed goons allegedly led by an influential bid-merchant and his brother attacked residences of landless settlers in Hajipara Char area under Gangachhara upazila.

The goons looted and damaged houses and finally set 35 houses of the settlers on fire.

At least 30 people were injured during the clash. The case was investigated by DB police and after investigation for two months, DB inspector Atiar Rahman submitted chargesheet on June 1.

BB authority

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nal case after five days.

The court dismissed the case against Anisur Rahman Akand. "The management of SIBL told the central bank that it (BB) can not investigate this particular issue. BB can only investigate books of accounts according to the Bank Company Act," an official of BB told The Daily Star.

After getting clearance from its lawyers, the central bank sent the inspection team to SIBL for the second time. The bank again did not allow the team to investigate the case, he stated.

"We have reported to higher authorities and suggested for action," the official added.

When contacted, Governor of Bangladesh Bank (BB) declined to comment regarding the matter.

Managing Director of SIBL, MM Nurul Haque, also declined to comment and requested this correspondent to talk to the bank's chairman.

Prof. M A Mannan, Chairman of SIBL, said with the approval of the board, he had issued a letter to the MD not to release any of its staff without prior approval of the chairman.

He admitted that the bank was in serious crisis when these employees resigned from the bank.

Mannan also termed the central bank action 'unlawful', saying that SIBL had sent a letter to the Bangladesh Bank elaborating its position.

"The power to appoint, promote, and by necessary implication, to fire an employee vests in the Board of the bank," SIBL said in its letter. "The service terms of ex-employees of the bank can not be the subject matter of inspection under Section 44 of the Act."

Save rivers from pollution, encroachment

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a roundtable in the city yesterday urged all concerned and people in general to come forward to protect the rivers around the capital from encroachment and pollution.

They also expressed their deep concern over filling of the river beds with waste and sludge.

The roundtable on "Encroachment and Pollution of Rivers Surrounding the Dhaka City and its Consequences" was jointly organised by Sunder Jiban, an NGO and Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI). It was sponsored by Bengal Fine Ceramic Ltd.

Held at the conference hall of DCCI, it was moderated by environmentalist and President of Paribesh Rakkha Sapath, A M A Muhiit.

State Minister for Environment and Forest H N Ashequr Rahman was the chief guest while DCCI President Afabul Islam and Chairman of Bengal Fine Ceramics R Maksud Khan were present as guests of honour.

Abu Naser Khan, General Secretary of Porosh, placed the key note paper. Among others, Chief Engineer of Dhaka WASA Kazi Mohammad Seesh, Environmental Scientist of ICDDR Dr Sirajul Islam, head of Biochemistry Department of ICDDR M A Wahed, Deputy Managing Director of Sena Kalyan Sangstha (SKS) Col. Siekh Farid took part in the discussion.

Termining the metropolis an "ideal city of pollution", the state minister said, "Not only river encroachment and pollution but noise, air pollution and pollution created by solid waste are also responsible for environmental degradation in the capital", he said.

The DCCI chief said a strong political commitment and co-ordinated efforts by all concerned are needed to protect the rivers from encroachment and pollution. He urged the government to give tax holiday to those industrial organisations which are not responsible for environmental pollution.

Col. Seikh Farid said SKS will demolish its structures if those are found encroaching on Buriganga river. As per a B-I-WTA request, it is now examining its installations along the river, he said.

In may be recalled that following reports in The Daily Star, an inquiry by the Department of Environment found large scale encroachments on Buriganga by SKS and others.

Pointing out arsenic pollution of country's groundwater, R Maksud Khan said all concerned should come forward immediately to keep the surface water safe.

Porosh General Secretary Naser Khan revealed that 104 constructions have encroached upon the river Buriganga. Only encroachment is not responsible for gradual death of the rivers around the city. Biological hazards are also responsible for it, he said.

Recalling his success in curbing terrorism in the trouble-torn region by launching a combined operation, the Home Minister urged the people to cast their votes for boat at the coming election to maintain peace in the area.

"If you want to continue peace in the region, elect us in the next election, vote for boat."

Nasim alleged that killing of journalist Shamsur Rahman who always wrote against terrorism in the country's south-west was an outcome of Khaleda's provocative remarks.

Alleging Opposition's link with terrorist syndicates, the Home Minister said messages were sent to the terrorists now in jail to join hands with opposition if they wanted to survive.

He said Awami League does not need any support from terrorists and goons because his party stands for the cause of the people and only requires their support.

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"If you want to continue peace in the region, elect us in the next election, vote for boat."

Constable shot dead by his colleague in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 29: A police constable was shot dead and two others injured when one of his frenzied colleagues opened fire from his Chinese rifle at one stage of altercation at a tea stall in Baghona area of Lalkhan Bazar in the city this morning.

The dead was identified as Mosharrar Hossain. Two other injured constables Shahidul Islam and Wahidul Islam were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Constable Nasir Uddin Molah was arrested and sent to jail after being produced in the court.

Constables Mosharrar and Nasir were taking tea at 9:30 am, police said. The cause of altercation was not known. At one stage Nasir opened fire from his Chinese rifle killing Mosharrar on the spot and injuring two others, police added.

Roundtable

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and "bad planning" as the two main reasons for the present environmental situation.

The Building Construction Act has to be amended and government's various agencies have to be reorganised to save the environment from further deterioration, he said.

Prof. Jamilur Rahman of BUET described the situation as disastrous. "There is no necessity of planning if it is not implemented."

Town planner Zahurul Haq called upon the government and the NGOs to create public awareness against environmental pollution. Citizens' groups should also be involved in it, he said.

Lack of co-ordination among various government departments and agencies are also responsible for deterioration of the city's environment, he said.

Dr Toufik M Seraji, Managing Director of Shelltech and President of Real Estate and Housing Association, said certain laws should be amended to check unplanned urbanisation, which is mainly responsible for deterioration of the environment.

"Urbanisation is unavoidable, but it should be in systematic way."

Prof. Nazrul Islam of Dhaka University said unplanned urbanisation is a problem not only in Dhaka city but also in other cities and towns. This can not be solved without a government policy.

Prof. Golam Rahman, President of the Institute of Planning suggested formation of a body to monitor unplanned urbanisation and its effects on the environment.

Prof. Sarwar Zahan regretted that there is no policy on urbanisation.

In his concluding speech, Motiur Rahman said, besides the government and NGOs, citizens will have to play an important role to protect the environment in urban areas from further pollution.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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