

National

Rajshahi mayor asks for Tk 1.5 cr to fight dengue

RAJSHAH, Aug 8: With eight people down with dengue fever so far, the city corporation has sounded a red alert and asked for Tk 1.5 crore financial aid from the government to fight the impending menace, reports UNB.

City Mayor Mizanur Rahman

Minu in a press conference at his office Friday said health officials of the corporation collected larvae from several spots in the city and identified university, Bhadra, Shalbagan, court and areas near the river Padma as high risk zones.

City dwellers alleged that neither the city corporation nor the local Public Health Department, so far, took effective eradication drive despite demonstrations, meetings and symposia by various organisations and institutions.

Minu said the citizens were

getting panicky but funds were inadequate to meet the expenses of large-scale mosquito eradication drive. The corporation, he said, asked the Local Government Ministry to grant Tk 1.5 crore for dengue prevention and treatment in the city.

Doctors of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital so far identified eight dengue patients, of whom four have been sent to Dhaka for treatment.

Principal of the RMCH Dr AB Siddiqui said the hospital was running short of test kits for dengue virus.

While protests and demonstrations continue demanding anti-dengue measures, city dwellers are using mosquito nets in the day also to keep off dengue mosquitoes.

Protesting the authority's indifference to the outbreak of dengue fever, the local unit of

workers' Party and its students front Chhatra Moitri staged demonstrations and laid siege to the city corporation office on August 2 and 3.

Teachers of Rajshahi University also brought out a procession to raise public awareness on the growing menace.

Responding to the demands of 25,000 students and 800 teachers, a 12-member committee has been formed with Prof Wazed Ali as president to conduct aedes eradication drive in the university area. But the committee is yet to take any effective initiative.

The university authorities said the city corporation was responsible for taking measures in all areas within its jurisdiction, including the Rajshahi University.



"Sishu Sarga" (children's heaven) of the late celebrated artist S M Sultan is being ruined gradually. It was constructed in Narail by him in 1989. He ran it well till his death. He also built a zoo in his home. There still stands his barge boat. But after his demise the barge boat is also being neglected. Now the boat has been tied with a tree on the dry land on the bank of the River Chitra. Many zoo animals have died already. Mysteriously the conservation committee of S M Sultan's property has disappeared. The government should take up programme on emergency basis to safeguard late S M Sultan's property which is our national asset.

-Star photo

Jute output won't reach target in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 8: Target of jute production in the district will not be achieved this season as the cultivation was not attained due to adverse weather condition and seed crisis during farming, official sources said.

Besides, low price of jute, once the country's main source of exports earning, over the years has frustrated the growers to cultivate the crop.

Jute cultivation has been declining in the district as farmers are opting for other cash crops due to low price of jute.

The farmers are also facing problem in rotting raw jute due to scarcity of water in natural bodies.

It is common phenomenon that every year during peak time of cultivation the growers face crisis of quality seed. The smugglers take advantage of the seed crisis, marketing low-quality Indian seed.

According to local Agriculture Extension Department (AED), Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) can not supply the total requirement of seed. Farmers have to depend on their own procurement of the seed.

Target was fixed to bring 10,630 hectares of land under jute cultivation in six upazilas of

the district. Of them, 10,519 hectares of land were meant for 'tosa' variety and 120 hectares for local variety.

But only 7,628 hectares of land were brought under the cultivation. Of them, 44 hectares were brought under local variety and 7,584 hectares under 'tosa' variety.

In Sadar upazila, target was fixed to bring 1,110 hectares under the farming, but 850 hectares were brought under the cultivation. In Kumarkali, 1,350 hectares were brought under the farming against the target of 2,010 hectares, 723 hectares were brought against the target of 920 hectares in Khoksha upazila, 790 hectares were brought against the target of 1,070 hectares in Mirpur upazila, 555 hectares were brought against the target of 1,510 hectares in Bheramara upazila, and 3360 hectares were brought against the target of 4,010 in Daulatpur upazila.

The total production target was fixed to bring 7,600 bales of jute.

Jute farmers also said middlemen always control the price in local markets, depriving them of fair price. Beside, many jute mills are reluctant to purchase jute directly from the growers, encouraging the middlemen.

Meanwhile, BSS from Barisal

says: About 50,043 hectares of land were brought under high yielding variety of jute cultivation in 10 districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone during the current season.

The districts are Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

According to an official source,

46,870 hectares were brought under the cultivation of 'Tossa' variety and 3,173 hectares under local variety.

A total of 2,05,985 bales of raw jute are expected to be produced in this region this year.

Meanwhile, police arrested

Nazrul and Manir, who were

identified by the companion, from Nathulabad Bus Terminal area in this connection. Another suspect, identified as Ainal, was held from Garapar.

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JHENIDAH, Aug 8: Speakers at a discussion held at village Golaknagar under Shalakupura upazila here recently said there is

no alternative to using organic fertiliser to save soil fertility.

Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides is sharply deteriorating the soil fertility, the added. They urged the farmers to use organic fertilisers to save soil fertility.

The discussion was held in connection with exchanging views of dhaincha farming.

Organised by Unnayan Dhara, an NGO, the discussion was presided over by renowned farmer of the village Khelafat Biswas.

Among others, Anwar Hossain and Shawkat Noon of Proshika, Journalist Dewar Kabir, farmers Moklesur Rahman, Raisuddin, Abdul Basel, Kazi Nazmul Hasan and Sahiduzzaman Milu participated in the discussion.

Earlier the participants visited the demonstration plot of

dhaincha.

Punishment

BAGERHAT, Aug 8: Some 4,355 SSC students, who were

expelled for cheating in the last

SSC examinations under JESSORE Board, will not be allowed to sit in the next examinations, reports BSS.

Board officials said the

expelled students would be

barred from appearing in the next

examinations as punishment.

They said the number of

expelled students under the

board is on the rise as 13,000

students were expelled in last five years.

This year highest 959 students

were expelled in Kushtia while

lowest 68 in Pirojpur district.

Breakup of the expelled students: Bagerhat-247, Khulna-318, JESSORE-229, Jhenidah-285, Magura-101, Narail-83, Satkhira-186, Barisal-507, Patuakhali-368, Bhola-240, Jhalakathi-86, Meherpur-268, Barguna-80 and Chuadanga-332.

The nine month long

programme 'Alor Pathay

Faridpur' will be launched on

September 8.

The workshop was presided

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Girl lifted, raped

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 8: A teenage girl was abducted and later raped by a gang of armed hoodlums at Gariarpur, on the outskirts of the town recently.

According to police, the gang numbering about five kidnapped the girl aged about 15 and her male companion, whose relationship to the girl could not be known, from a Khulna-bound night coach, Green Star, at the bus stand at gunpoint at about 9:30 PM.

The hoodlums took them to the nearby under construction BRAC Complex. Later the kidnappers took the girl to a separate room confining the companion and raped her. The companion, however, managed to escape and informed police at early hours on Sunday. The girl was rescued later.

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