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Experts reject DCC's aerial spray plan to contain dengue

Leading experts of aedes aegypti, the main vector of dengue virus, yesterday rejected DCC plans to eliminate mosquitoes by aerial spraying and urged the authorities to create public awareness instead of launching such 'cosmetic operation,' reports BSS.

"Some 80 to 90 per cent aedes aegypti and aedes albopictus mosquitoes live inside different houses and it is a impractical proposition to destroy them by using aeroplanes and pesticides," they opined at a discussion at the auditorium of the National Press Club.

Noted mosquito expert Prof Mahmudul Amin, Prof. Ismail Hossain, Dr. Monjur Ahmed Chowdhury, Dr. Quader of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Monjurul Hannan Khan of Bangladesh Zoological Society, president of National Press Club Khondoker Monirul Alam and General Secretary Swapna Saha took part in the discussion jointly organised by National Press Club and Bangladesh Zoological Society.

Prof. Mahmudul Amin said aerial spray and other quick-knock formula won't be safe and the authorities should abandon those easy solutions considering environmental and other aspects.

Generally all aedes mosquitoes are not carriers of fatal dengue virus that causes dengue fever, dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) and dengue shock syndrome (DSS), so it won't be wise to engage huge resources and manpower to kill all mosquitoes of the capital, he said.

The professor said aedes mosquitoes produce low-noise and transmit disease in the daytime. He said some aedes species live up to 46 days though their life span ranges from 8 to 11 days. Peripheral spraying in the identified spots would serve as more specific and effective deterrent, he said.

He said some 29 species of mosquitoes exist in Bangladesh and four aedes species were found in the capital.

Prof. Ismail Hossain said prevalence of aedes aegypti, the main vector of dengue, increased rapidly in the capital and its suburbs. But unfortunately the authorities did not pay heed to the recommendations of the experts.

The professor said that Bangladesh Zoological Society warned the authorities concerned of the disease far earlier than the World Health Organisation, he said.

He said only 18 entomologists are deputed in different districts for collecting basic data and city management bodies like Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) lack necessary manpower and laboratory facilities for identifying harmful insects.

Dr. Monjur Ahmed Chowdhury said breeding grounds of the aedes mosquitoes should be destroyed immediately to contain further outbreak of the disease. He said thermal fogging and other techniques should be used to evict the dengue carriers.

Dr. Quader of DCC said the City Corporation has 700 field workers, 34 inspectors, six insect collectors and 400 fogging machines to combat mosquito menace.

But the DCC doctor admitted that City Corporation lacks resource, experts and manpower to control flying mosquitoes in such a large city that accommodates over one crore people and some five lakh houses.

"DCC has plans to import and spray 18 tons of insecticides by using aircraft to contain the aedes mosquitoes," he said. It is interesting that aedes mosquitoes were found in apparently clean houses in Dhanmondi and the Central Road, he said.

Journalist Khondoker Monirul Alam said regular surveillance on the state of

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Ansar stabbed in city

By Staff Correspondent

An Ansar in the city was stabbed indiscriminately while returning from duty in the early hours yesterday.

The victim identified as Mustafa, 35, son of Shah Alam was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital soon after the attack, hospital sources said.

The gang confronted Mustafa near the Ansar camp at Mirpur Section 13 at about 1:30 am, stabbed him indiscriminately and left him on the road, said hospital sources quoting the victim's attendants, but the reason behind the attack could not be known.

Police, however, said they were not aware of any such incident and that no FIR was registered as yet.

Urs

A week-long annual Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Shah Peer Kella Shaheed (R.A) of Kharampur, Akhaura in the district of Brahmanbaria begins today, says a press release.

Akheri munajat will be held on August 14 at 12:00 midnight.

**Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services****Notice of 2nd AGM of BASIS**

Notice is hereby given for the second AGM of BASIS to be held at following time, date and venue :

Time : 10:30am
Date : Sat 26 Aug. 2000
Venue : IDB Bhawan Conference Room

The agenda of the AGM are as follows :

1. Confirmation of minutes of last AGM held on 28 Aug 1999
2. Present the annual report
3. Present and approve annual accounts
4. Appointment and fixation of remuneration of auditor for 2000-2001
5. Miscellaneous

K Atique-e-Rabbani
Secretary General



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 Motorola C65 Tk 14,175 & Wall Clock	 Motorola StarTAC X Tk 18,675 & Wall Clock		
 Ericsson T28a Tk 19,900 & Ericsson Chat Board			

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