

DENGUE ALERT

Clamour for blood, beds

Desperate search for platelet, clinics send back patients

NAIMUL HAQ

The dengue-struck city is going crazy over platelet crisis. And the situation has turned even worse as most clinics have run out of beds to take in new patients.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) is now swamped by hundreds of people who need an emergency supply of platelets to save their dear ones down with dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF).

The BRCS is supplying around 100 bags of lifesaving platelets, while the demand is three times higher.

"The main crisis is of blood donors," said a BRCS official. "Supply of fresh blood is running out and we are left with little to cope with the crisis."

Platelet is needed for the treatment of DHF, the critical stage of the dengue infection. At this stage, blood becomes thin and as a result, it leaks from various organs of the body, sending the patient into a shock. The recovery rate from such a shock is rare.

Officials predict that the demand for platelets may rise even more with the rise in dengue infection.

Meantime, seven dengue patients have been admitted to the DMCH, four to the Shishu Hospital, five to the Mitford Hospital, three to BIRDEM, four the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, one to the Government Employees Hospital and 30 to different private hospitals and clinics yesterday.

With yesterday's count, the number of dengue patients climbed

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PHOTO: STAR

Platelet-seekers flock to the counters at the Red Crescent Society yesterday, as city hospitals and clinics run short of blood for dengue patients. Forty patients tested positive yesterday.

Retired group captain dies of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A retired group captain died of dengue at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka, early yesterday morning.

Mamunur Rashid, 58, died from internal bleeding at the intensive care unit at 4.00am. He was diagnosed with post-fever complications.

Father of three, Rashid was a resident of the old DOHS. His relatives said he was admitted to the CMH only four days ago.

Five get life term for killing Tayebi

Main accused goes scot-free

ABDULLAH -AL MAHMUD, Ctg

The metropolitan sessions judge court Monday awarded life-term to five people for the murder of the Indian citizen Jibran Tayyabi in 1999. The court, however, acquitted three of the accused including the prime suspect Yeasin Rahman Titu as the court felt "the prosecution failed to establish the charge under section 302/34 of penal code against him (Titu) beyond shadow of all reasonable doubts by the evidence so far adduced."

Metropolitan Sessions Judge Fazlul Karim delivered the 97-page verdict before a packed courtroom for nearly two hours that sentenced five people to life imprisonment.

The convicts, aged between 24 and 33, were Osman alias Mohammad Osman, son of Solaiman of Doulatpur village, Ali Akber alias Didarul Alam, son of Jayedul Haq of Harin Khain village, Zillur Rahman, son of Haji Shaheb Mia Sawdagor of Assia village, Zahid Hossain alias Kiron,

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Two-stroke ban may be delayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Implementation of the government decision to ban the two-stroke three-wheeler air polluters from the streets of Dhaka from September 1 might be delayed by a few weeks as per a recommendation of a communication ministry committee.

The 12-member committee, headed by State Minister for Communication Salahuddin Ahmed, was formed on Sunday to finalise an action plan to implement

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WHEATGATE SCAM

Not probing enough

Committee under fire for not collecting samples from rotten lots, skipping suspect silos

REAZ AHMAD and ANWAR ALI

A day before filing its report on alleged wheat scam, the food ministry-formed probe committee has come under fire for not collecting samples from rotten lots and not inspecting some granaries which allegedly purchased feed-grade Indian wheat.

Meanwhile, a day after issuing instruction for maintaining a status quo in wheat stocks in all public silos, the one-man secretarial probe body formed at the prime minister's directive left Dhaka for Bogra yesterday on a fact-finding mission.

Secretary in-charge of civil aviation and tourism ministry Shafiqul Islam, who heads the one-man probe body, would inspect silos in Bogra and Pabna today and tomorrow to probe the alleged wheat scam.

Earlier on Sunday, Islam clamped restrictions on transfer of wheat from one silo to another in the interest of an in-depth investigation.

Meantime, the food ministry-formed four-man probe committee

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PHOTO: STAR

At Bogra, the Bangladesh Chhatra League mocks the food department by displaying a board yesterday reading 'even goats won't eat this wheat'.

Agarwal tale takes a new twist

BB finds loans given to his employees

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday found more loans sanctioned to Om Prakash Agarwal by different banks and most of the loans were sanctioned in favour of his employees, which is a serious violation of banking rule.

So, the BB now thinks serious action should be taken against the management of the banks for sanctioning loans in favour of employees of a business concern, according to sources.

Meantime, the BB governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed will file a preliminary report on the findings of the BB probe team to the finance and planning minister M Saifur Rahman today.

Into the third day of investigations, the central bank has so far

found different private commercial banks having extended facilities worth Tk 115 crore to Agarwal, according to sources. And, the BB investigation also found the banks disbursed cash assistance to

Agarwal against fake exports.

Only three crore taka was sanctioned to Agarwal while the rest to employees of his six business concerns.

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