

## DENGUE ALERT

# Foggy DCC fogging

## Patients pay high for blood cell separation; 94 more infected with dengue

NAIMUL HAQ

The Dhaka City Corporation's (DCC) fogging campaign to kill aedes mosquito has proved futile to fight the dengue outbreak, with most areas still to see any DCC man on operation.

Many residents in various areas termed the campaign an 'eyewash'.

And meantime, 94 more dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals and clinics yesterday.

"We are surprised by the DCC's inaction. They know that aedes mosquitoes exist in large number here, but we have not noticed any fogging," said one housewife in Jhigata.

Banani, where the aedes mosquito larvae was found at an alarming level, remains virtually untouched by the DCC campaign.

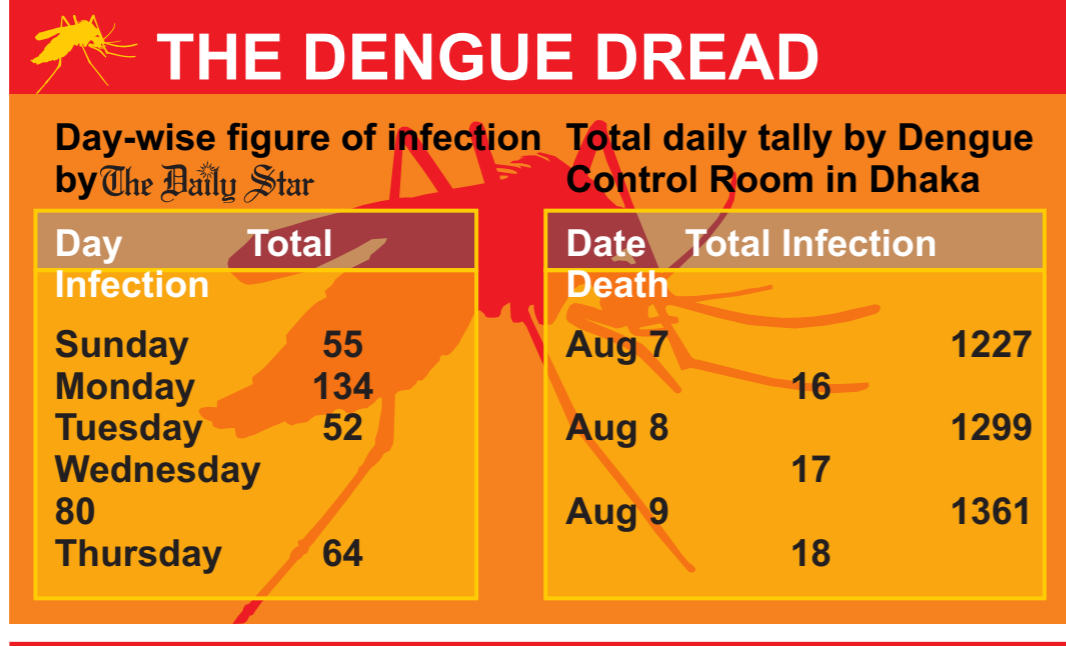
"I have not seen or heard any fogging machine," said Mrs Jubair Hossain, a resident of Road No. 13 at block E.

Manju Ara Rahman of Hatirpul also said there had not been any insecticide spraying there.

And Malibagh, Tallabagh and Sukarabagh area residents also vouched to the fact.

Residents in Lalbagh, Islampur, Bongshal, Kalabagan, Banani and Gulshan said whatever fogging was done there was mostly confined to the houses of government high officials and ward commissioners.

"The ward commissioners appear on the spot only when there is a TV camera," said another



resident at Gulshan.

Meantime, for the attendants of dengue patients, money and luck are two factors to get hold of the life-saving platelet.

Hundreds of people are thronging the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) blood centre, private blood banks and other diagnostic centres for platelet.

The government and autonomous facilities in the city are prov-

ing totally incapable to provide emergency facilities.

Taking advantage of the panic and crisis, some private blood banks are making windfall by selling platelet for as high as Tk 10,000 a bag.

At the same time, people are crowding the private diagnostic centres for dengue confirmatory test costing around Tk 700 to Tk 1200.

None of the government hospitals in the city including the DMCH have facilities to test for dengue and as a result, patients admitted to these infirmaries are now forced to do the tests outside.

In the face of the emergency, the Sandhani Blood Centre, an institution with 14 units across the country run by medical students, started separating platelet from blood for

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## 7 cops sued for July 29 assault on DU teachers, students

BSS, Dhaka

A teacher of the Dhaka University (DU) yesterday filed a petition case with the CMM court accusing seven policemen of their involvement in assaulting some teachers and students of the university in front of Rokeya Hall on July 29.

Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, lecturer of the Law Department, submitted the petition case with Metropolitan Magistrate Sirajul Haider. In the case he mentioned the names of eight teachers and students of the university as prosecution witnesses.

Barrister M Amirul Islam, Advocate Syed Rezar Rahman and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## WHEATGATE SCAM

# Secretarial probe also detects wrongdoing

REAZ AHMAD and ANWAR ALI

The one-man secretarial committee, formed to probe into the alleged wheat scam, has also found imported wheat in government silos and seized two sacks with Punjab Agro Industries Corporation of India seals.

The committee, headed by Shafiqul Islam, secretary-in-charge to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, collected samples from six Bogra granaries and gave its preliminary observation at a meeting at the district circuit house yesterday.

Islam's is the highest-level probe body formed so far to look into widespread allegations of feed-grade Indian wheat purchase instead of home-grown food-grade wheat during the 135-day countrywide internal procurement drive that ended on July 31.

The committee, formed on August 10 at the prime ministerial directive, is scheduled to submit its report by August 25.

Two other bodies have also probed into the Wheatgate. The Ministry of Food committee is to submit its report to Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman today while the Directorate of Food investigation committee was suspended on Saturday.

In another development, transfer of insect-infested 900 metric tonnes of wheat from Khulna to Barisal was suspended yesterday at the intervention of a ruling party lawmaker. Also, more than 600 metric tonnes of wheat were stolen from a public godown at Khulna.

Islam, who reached Bogra from Dhaka the night before, yesterday visited the local supply depot at the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

# Murder muddles manpower export to Malaysia

RAFIQ HASAN

Manpower export to Malaysia is under a renewed threat following the killing of a female university student in that country allegedly by an expatriate Bangladeshi worker.

The worker - Shamim Reza - stormed into a house in Shah Alam area and stabbed to death 19-year-old Jurati Osman, a student of the University of Technology in Mera, on Sunday night. He was caught and handed over to police, according to a message received from the Bangladesh Mission in Kuala Lumpur.

The motive behind the killing and details about the worker could not be known immediately.

The news of the killing quickly spread all over Malaysia and created anger among the people.

It also panicked more than one lakh Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia as

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Rajuk rejoinder & our reply

RAJUK in a rejoinder yesterday to a news item captioned "RAJUK Lags in lake project" published in The Daily Star on August 2 claimed that directives of the government regarding the Banani-Gulshan-Baridhara areas were being implemented with all importance. During the period, RAJUK carried out eviction drives by the side of the lakes and in the areas on many occasions.

Details of the Wetland Conservation Act-2000 were published in daily newspapers and distributed among developers and private housing companies. Such widespread circulation has created an impact and awareness among the people, it claimed. As a result 'encroachments on the lakes and unauthorised construction along the lake has totally stopped', the rejoinder claimed.

It also claimed that opening of water flow by constructing bridges is one of the basic requirements for demarcation of the lake area as the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3