

Dengu scare in Ctg

CCC yet to take steps to combat deadly disease

NURUL ALAM, Chittagong

Despite a dengue scare in the port city and its surrounding areas, authorities are yet to wake up with preparedness to combat the deadly disease while experts feared its outbreak.

The Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) is yet to activate its dengue surveillance committee to launch an awareness campaign and take preventive measures by spraying insecticides on stagnant rainwater and other aedes mosquito breeding pockets.

Meanwhile, two patients suspected of having dengue virus infection were admitted to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) on Saturday, doctors said.

"We are alert and keeping a watch on the two patients," said Prof. Dr Faridul Islam, head of medicine department.

"We fear more people may be attacked by dengue virus due to lack of awareness," he added.

"We held an awareness meeting with all doctors of our ward after the DG (health) sent an instruction in this regard," he said.

Chief Health Officer of CCC Dr Sarfaraj Khan said, "We are worried in the wake of dengue scare. We decided to organise awareness programmes through meetings and seminars in every ward in the city to tackle the situation."

"We have already published advertisements in local papers to raise awareness and advised all the doctors of CCC clinics to refer the dengue patients to the CMCH without any delay," he added.

Chittagong civil surgeon office source said doctors and health officials at all upazilas of Chittagong have been alerted about dengue scare and asked to give reports on dengue patients regularly.

Prof. Dr Sultan Ahmed, convener of dengue surveillance committee of the CCC, said, "I feel that both awareness programmes and preventive measures should be taken ahead of the possible outbreak of the deadly disease."

However, CCC sources said that spraying of larvicides on the drains in the city remained suspended for the past one week as the costly chemicals might be washed away during rains.

DU exams postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities have postponed all examinations scheduled for July 3 due to unavoidable circumstance.

The fresh date will be announced later, said a press release.



PHOTO: STAR

Jeffrey D Sachs, special advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals, speaks at an international conference on 'Emerging Global Economic Order and Developing Countries', organised by Bangladesh Economic Association at Osmani Memorial Hall in Dhaka yesterday. On his right are former finance minister SAMS Kibria and East West University Vice-chancellor Muhammad Farashuddin and on his left is President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Abdul Awal Mintoo.

One to die for killing mother

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday sentenced one person to death for killing his mother and stepsister.

Three others were awarded life imprisonment in the case.

Judge Mohammad Shamsul Haq of the 7th Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court gave the verdict in presence of the two convicts while two others were tried in absentia.

The convict with death is Soheli alias Sanaullah while Soheli's maternal uncles Hannan, Hanif and Mannan were given life in jail.

Of the convicts, Soheli and Hannan were present in the court during the delivery of the verdict while Hanif and Mannan were tried in absentia.

The convict with death can appeal to the High Court against the verdict in seven days and the punishment to the fugitives will be effective from the date of their arrest or surrender, the judgement said.

In the case filed with Savar Police Station Sub-Inspector Shaokat Alam alleged that Soheli with the help of his maternal uncles Hannan, Hanif and Mannan killed his mother Sanwara Begum, 45, and his stepsister Sadia Khatun, 15, at Maddh-arajashan under Savar thana in Dhaka district at about 2:00 am on April 25, 2001 for grabbing the property. Later they dumped the bodies near a waterbody. Police recovered the bodies from there the

next day and filed a murder case the same day.

Police pressed charges against Soheli and three others on December 22 the same year.

District Public Prosecutor (PP) Mohsin Miah and Assistant PP Abu Afzal appeared for the state while advocate Hazi Nazrul Islam defended the accused.