

DCC claims success in tackling dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventy-six patients suspected to be suffering from dengue fever were admitted to different health care centres in the capital last month.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) officials yesterday gave this information in a view exchange meeting at the DCC auditorium while experts emphasised dengue prevention measures ahead of the month of September when chances of the disease rises.

Increased awareness, better treatment facilities and steps taken by the government have helped control the outbreak of dengue, Adviser to the Local Government and Rural Development Ministry Anwarul Iqbal said while speaking as the chief guest.

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Tarique sends ACC additional statement

UNB, Dhaka

Detained BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, who submitted his wealth statement on June 10, yesterday sent a supplementary statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) with additional information about his wealth.

"Yes, he has sent a supplementary (statement) to the commission through prison authorities and it has been sent to the relevant department," ACC Secretary Mokles ur Rahman told reporters in the afternoon.

In the supplementary statement, Tarique mentioned that he jointly owns 25 decimals of land in Gazipur worth about Tk 15,000.

It also shows he has three more bank accounts -- one with Southeast Bank and two with Arab Bangladesh Bank. There is Tk 50,000 and 2,000 respectively in the accounts with AB Bank, while Tk 4,210 in Southeast Bank.

WEALTH STATEMENT

Khaleda's assignment officer sued

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against Dr Firoz Mahmud Iqbal, assignment officer to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, for non-submission of his wealth statement within the ACC deadline.

ACC Deputy Director Syed Iqbal Hossain filed the case with Ramna Police Station under section 26(2)(Ka) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2004.

According to the first information report (FIR), the ACC had sent a letter to Firoz Mahmud on July 8 for submitting his wealth statement within seven working days.

The ACC extended the deadline by another seven days as Iqbal's wife Intiaz Begum applied for time extension on July 15. But, Firoz again failed to submit his wealth statement within the extended time.

DEPLETING GROUNDWATER LEVEL

German experience can solve Bangladesh crisis

SHARIER KHAN, back from Germany

Managing underground water reservoirs while mining plays the most crucial role in the protection of environment and agriculture and though this issue gets the least priority in Bangladesh, it gets high priority in mining in Germany.

The technology of managing underground water is simple yet intelligent and adopting it will not just help good mining in Bangladesh, but also improve the depleted water tables of Dhaka and save the city from an impending disaster.

Germany's largest coal mining and power company RWE systematically pumps out 550 million cubic

meters of water from underground at places where it would start open-pit mining in the near future. This ensures a clean and safe mining--but it also makes the land so dangerously dry that the nearby underground water tables start depleting. It can hurt agriculture and drinking water.

That is why the RWE does not waste this water like the Barapukuria Coal Mine and power companies, which pump out 22 million cubic meters of water annually and waste it entirely in the most polluted form. Consequently the villagers around the Barapukuria mine area are deprived of fresh drinking and irrigation water.

The Barapukuria coalmine was originally designed to extract 60 million tonnes of coal in 30 years but due to a flaw in assessing the water reservoir beneath the ground, the mine was flooded in 1998. This forced the mine authorities to revise the mining plans, which drastically reduced the forecasted production to 30 million tonnes in 30 years. Despite this, the water situation at the mine remained unmanageable and the mine authorities now say that 21 million tonnes of coal would be extractable in 30 years.

In a stark contrast, the RWE annually pumps back 50 million cubic metres (mcm) of water back

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PHOTO: STAR

German miners pump millions of cubic metres of water from a coal mine 20km away from this wetland to keep it unaffected by the mining, as the Germans are very sensitive about their wetlands.

Bus-truck collision kills 9 in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Nine people, including a woman, were killed and 20 others were injured in a fatal road accident on Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Link Road at Kalihati upazila in the district yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place at around 12:00noon when a Sirajganj-bound goods-laden truck from Dhaka collided head-on with a passenger bus from Naogaon at Kamakkhar Mor, leaving seven bus passengers dead on the spot.

Local people rescued the injured and rushed them to Tangail General Hospital. Two more injured bus passengers died on the way.

Of the dead, five were identified as supervisor of the bus Mohammad In san Ali, 25, son of

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PHOTO: STAR

A shop is built on stilt in a lake near Gulshan Shooting Club in the capital despite the government's efforts to keep the water bodies of Dhaka free of land grabbers.

EC vows not to repeat Sreepur mistakes

Plans big to train up 3 lakh enumerators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has planned to launch massive training programme for enumerators, who will carry out the most important task of preparing a voter list with photographs, not to repeat the mistakes made in voter listing under Sreepur pilot project.

Initially the EC will start training programme for district election officers across the country from today and the election officers will train about three lakh enumerators and supervisors, who are being recruited for the task of collecting particulars of prospective voters and bringing them to the voter registration centres.

"We want to avert mistakes occurred in simultaneously preparing the voter list with photographs and national identity cards under a pilot project in Sreepur municipality. So, we planned to train the field level staffs in such a way that will make process fool-proof," Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain told reporters at his office yesterday.

In Sreepur pilot project, which was completed in June, the field level enumerators failed to ensure correctness of the particulars of the prospective voters.

According to the EC's plan, the district election officers will arrange three-day long training programme for the field level manpower at district and upazila levels. Earlier the enumerators were given a day's training, as the previous procedure for preparing the voter list was very simple.

Directed by the EC, the district election officers have already asked assistant registration officers to start the process for recruiting the enumerators and supervisors in their respective areas for preparing the voter list, sources said.

"This time, the efficiency of the

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PLATINUM JUTE MILLS

200 workers stop working over less wages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Over 200 workers of Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills (PJJM) at Khalishpur in Khulna stopped working from Saturday evening in protest at getting less wages.

The agitated workers said the work stoppage would continue until the matter is settled.

Meanwhile, two more officials yesterday joined the high-level BJMC team that reached Khulna from Dhaka on Saturday to solve the problems in running the jute mills and discuss the payment of dues of the retrenched workers and employees of the closed People's Jute Mills.

The BJMC team includes General Manager (Admin) Md Abu Saeed, General Manager (Finance) Mohammad Ali Chowdhury, managers Nurul Islam and Nizamuddin.

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US troops kill Iraq shrine bomber

13 others killed in Baghdad mortar attacks

AP, Baghdad

US troops killed the al-Qaeda mastermind of the latest bombing at a prized Shia shrine, and at least 13 people died when mortars rained down on their Baghdad neighbourhood, officials said Sunday.

Haitham Sabah Shaker Mohammed al-Badri was the emir of al-Qaeda of Salahuddin province in Iraq, and the figure responsible for the June 13 bombing of the twin minarets at the Golden Dome mosque in Samarra, the US military said in a statement. He died in a US operation east of Samarra on Thursday, though his death was announced three days later.

"Al-Badri was positively identified

by close associates and family members," the statement said.

Al-Badri had also been a suspect in an earlier bombing, in February 2006, which destroyed the same mosque's golden dome and set in motion an unrelenting cycle of retaliatory sectarian bloodletting.

Thirteen people were killed early Sunday morning and 14 wounded by mortar shells in southeast Baghdad, police said.

At least three mortars hit the Shia-dominated Mashtal area in southeast Baghdad, a police officer said on condition of anonymity out of security concerns. It was unclear whether they were aimed at the

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RU Shibir cadres assault journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) cadres yesterday assaulted four journalists and kept two of them confined for three hours to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of Rajshahi University when they went there to find out whether Shibir cadres were enrolling students in the voter list.

The journalists were informed that Shibir activists posted posters on hall walls asking students to contact the hall unit Shibir president for enrolling their names in the voter list and collect national identity cards (NID).

Johaer Ibne Kalim, RU correspondent of daily Jugantor and photojournalist Abdullah Iqbal went to the hall at about 12:00 noon to confirm it.

The posters bearing Shibir's name and logo asked the students

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New Afghan attacks leave 20 dead

AFP, Kabul

At least 20 people, including six civilians and 10 police officers, were killed in a weekend of violence across insurgency-hit Afghanistan, police said yesterday.

In an attack blamed on Taliban insurgents, three policemen were killed when a remotely detonated mine tore through their vehicle in the eastern province of Kunar on Sunday, provincial police commander Abdul Jalal Jalal said.

Prayer Timing

August 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		



A crocodile, left, at the country's lone crocodile farm in Bhaluka, Mymnesingh; a farm employee, right, collecting eggs of the reptile.

Heavy rainfall brings boon to lone croc farm



PHOTO: STAR

FIDA-E-TASHFIA

Although heavy rainfall in the preceding months has brought innumerable miseries for the overwhelming majority of the people, it has been a boon for the country's lone crocodile farm, with its inmates laying over 500 new eggs.

"Last year reproductive activities of the crocodiles were affected due to 50 percent less than usual rainfall, but this year the weather has favoured us and 14 of our crocodiles have laid eggs," said Mushtaq Ahmed, managing director and chief executive officer of Reptiles Farm Ltd (RFL).

The private reptile reproduction enterprise was launched in 2004 with the aim of farming saltwater crocodiles commercially for export.

Located in Hatiber village of Uthura union under Bhaluka upazila

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