

Take steps to control vector-borne diseases

Experts urge govt

UNB, Dhaka

The government should take immediate steps to deal with the growing threat of some emerging and re-emerging vector-borne diseases -- malaria, dengue and kala azar -- to the country, entomologists said at a seminar yesterday.

They also urged the government to take measures to keep at bay some overseas diseases such as Japanese fever, cutaneous, leishmaniasis, plague and West Nile fever as many Bangladeshis, visiting the affected countries, are coming back home carrying the germs of the diseases.

"The number of patients with vector-borne diseases has marked a rise in Bangladesh in the last four years," Dr Touhid Uddin Ahmed, medical entomologist and president of Mosquito and Vector Management Association of Bangladesh (MVMAB), told the seminar.

The association organised the seminar titled 'Emerging and Re-emerging Vector-borne Diseases in Bangladesh' at Dhaka

Reporters' Unity (DRU) auditorium.

Prof Dr Alauddin Ahmed, adviser to the prime minister, attended the seminar as the chief guest while Sayed Marghub Murshed, former chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunications and Regulatory Commission (BTRC), was present as the special guest.

Of the vector-borne diseases, Dr Touhid said, dengue is emerging while kala azar re-emerging in Bangladesh and these diseases have been spreading due to environmental and pathogenic factors.

"The main avenues of disease propagation are rapid human transportation and tourism development," he said, adding that other important factors for vector-borne diseases are ecological change, shortage of trained manpower, global warming, urbanisation, socio-economic condition and dam construction for irrigation projects.

The entomologists suggested that the authorities should take timely steps for early detection of vector-borne diseases

and forge international collaboration and keep regular surveillance to keep the diseases at bay.

They also stressed the need to raise awareness along with using the state-of-the-art technology to eliminate the root causes of the diseases.

Addressing the function, Alauddin Ahmed stressed the need to take immediate measures to control vector-borne diseases. "We've to have sustainable measures to tackle overseas diseases like AIDS before taking any initiatives to develop the tourism sector."

He also emphasised the need for dissemination of information about the root causes of the diseases in easy language so that everybody could help eradicate mosquito-borne diseases from the country.

MVMAB General Secretary Dr Manjur A Chowdhury and National Programme Officer-VND of World Health Organisation (WHO) Dr A Mannan Bangali presented PowerPoint slides at the seminar.



PHOTO: STAR

'Try attackers of home economics students'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Home Economics College staged a demonstration on Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding trial of attackers of the students.

In support of their demand, several hundred students brought out a procession that marched different streets on the campus and ended with a rally at the base of Aparajeo Bangla.

Students from the rally placed a six-point demand that includes, declaring Home Economics College as a separate institute of Dhaka University and removal of college principal.

Protesters alleged that college principal Laila Arzumanad Banu had provoked the police to attack on students on June 23.

Students threaten to continue their movement until their demands are met.

The authorities declared the institute closed for indefinite period after students damaged the office of the principal, library and other rooms in protest of police assault on them.

Seminar on poet Nazrul held at DU

BSS, Dhaka

Lecture on 'Sun, Warmth and Hope on Nazrul and World Poetry' was held at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban auditorium of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

Institute of Modern Language organised the seminar. DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique spoke at the programme at the chief guest.

Prof Dr Mark Stevenson of Victoria University, Australia, presented the keynote paper on 'Sun, Warmth and Hope on Nazrul and World Poetry.'

Prof Arefin said Nazrul was a poet, composer, musician, actor, political personality, journalist, teacher, philosopher, military, social reformer and a revolutionary leader.

'Cancel 5pc hike in Wasa water bill'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) yesterday demanded cancellation of the decision of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage authorities of five percent increase in water bill.

Comrade Khalequzzaman, convenor of the central committee, in a statement placed the demand, saying that the city dwellers are facing problems due to acute shortage of water.

There are a lot of areas in the city where water supply remain suspended for one or two weeks, he said, adding that the government should resolve the crisis first, then it might impose additional charge.

The BSD convenor suggested the government install a pipeline from the Meghna-Jamuna river to Dhaka city to resolve the crisis.

Workers of Kazi Fashion stage a sit-in in front of BGMEA office in the city yesterday demanding payment of salary and reopening of the factory.

'Formulate health policy through discussion'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health rights activists yesterday demanded the government increase the timeframe of giving opinion on the draft health policy which is posted on the website.

Criticising the provision of giving opinions through a website (www.mohfw.gov.bd), they also suggested changing the system and organising view exchange meetings for the people as still many don't have the access to internet service.

At a press conference organised by Health

Movement at the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) auditorium in the city, the rights activists said the draft policy encourages the user fee policy from the well-off people which might lead the poor to face discrimination in getting health service.

They also criticised that the draft policy does not emphasise the importance of improving the public health system.

Furthermore, it is more like a 'treatment policy' as it missed food, nutrition and environment issue which is related to health directly, the activists said.

Even there is no indication of involvement of different ministries including agriculture, food, environment, industry and commerce ministry, they added.

Prevention of diseases is also neglected in the draft policy, they said, adding that at least three more months should be given to the people to deliver their opinions and it must be formulated through open discussions.

Farida Akhter of UBINIG, Syed Mahbulul Alam, Dr Morshed Chowdhury, Dr Mesbah Uddin Ahmed and Shima Das Shimu spoke at the programme.



PHOTO: STAR

BGMEA handed over two pick-up vans to the police to facilitate their duty to maintain law and order in the export-oriented garments industries in Gazipur. The photo shows Home Minister Sahara Khatun handing over the keys of the pick-up vans to Police Superintendent of Gazipur Mahfuzul Haque Nuruzzaman at a ceremony at BGMEA conference room in the city yesterday. On her left is BGMEA President Abdus Salam Murshedi. (Story on Page 1)

4 killed, 30 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

Four people were killed and 30 others injured in separate road accidents in Narsingdi, Bagerhat and Dinajpur yesterday.

A correspondent in Narsingdi reports: Three motorcyclists were killed when a passenger bus ran over them on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Amtola in Karachar industrial area of Shibpur upazila yesterday afternoon.

The dead were identified as Masum, 24, Sakawat, 22, and Amir Hossain, 30.

Narsingdi Assistant Police Super Monwarul Islam Khan said a Dhaka-bound bus of Mitali Paribahan hit their motorcycle while they were going to Bhairab, leaving them dead on the spot.

Police seized the bus but the driver managed to flee.

A case has been filed with Shibpur police station.

BSS from Bagerhat adds: One minor boy was killed in a road accident in Singati area on Bagerhat-Fakirhat road in Bagerhat yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Nayeem Kazi, 7, a class I student.

Police said a speeding bus crushed him under its wheels.

BSS from Dinajpur adds: At least 30 passengers were injured in a road accident on Dinajpur-

Phulbari highway at Phulbari Bejai point under Phulbari upazila in Dinajpur yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred when a Bogra-bound passenger bus lost control over steering and fell into a ditch, leaving 30 passengers injured, seven of them critically.

Of the injured, 16 were admitted to Phulbari Upazila Health Complex. Later, seven of them have been transferred to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

The driver and helper of the bus, however, managed to escape.

424 newspapers being published in country

Minister tells JS

BSS, Dhaka

The number of daily newspapers and fortnightly magazines in the country, which received 'no objection certificates' and declaration up to May 31 this year, stands at 592 and 76 respectively.

Of them, 424 dailies and 39 magazines are being published and the remaining 168 dailies and 37 magazines were not published, Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad told the Jatiya Sangsad in reply to a question raised by treasury bench member Md Ekabbar Hossain yesterday.

Responding to another question from ruling party lawmaker Shamsul Haque

Chowdhury, the minister said the government organisations can give advertisements directly to the district-based newspapers as per the advertisement and supplementary policy of the information ministry.

"As the government organisations give ads to the newspapers directly, it is not possible to fix the quantity of ads given by the information ministry and the Films and Publication Department," he said.

The minister also told AL member AKM Fazlul Haque that there is no government bar to publishing daily or weekly newspapers lawfully.

Training on reduction of AIDS stigma begins

METRO DESK

A two-day training on 'Reduction of stigma and discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS' began at Rajshahi yesterday, says a press release.

Nari Unnayan Shakti (Women's Power for Development) has organised the training at the Brac Training Centre. The programme is funded by South Asian Regional Development Marketplace 2008, World Bank.

The objective of the training is tackling HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination in Bangladesh.

A total of 61 journalists and HIV-positive persons are taking part in the course.

Dr Md Abdur Rahman, programme manager, National AIDS/STD Programme, attended the inaugural session as the chief guest while Md Abdul Barik, additional deputy commissioner, Rajshahi, Abdul Quddus Chowdhury, additional superintendent of police, Bulbul Chowdhury, president of Rajshahi Press Club, and Dr Habibara Khanam were present as special guests.

Afroja Parvin, executive director, Nari Unnayan Shakti, presided over the ceremony.

1402 bottles of Phensidyl seized

UNB, Joypurhat

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized 1402 bottles of contraband Indian Phensidyl syrup from a microbus at Naoda village in Panchbibi upazila here yesterday.

Acting on secret information, a team of (Rab)-5 stopped the microbus on Joypurhat-Hili road and seized the Phensidyl early in the morning. They also seized the microbus and arrested one Biplob Sheikh from it in this connection.

Biplob said the Phensidyl bottles were being taken to the capital.



PHOTO: CAMPION SCHOOL

Students pose for photograph at the first annual award ceremony of the Campion School at Uttara in the city on Friday. Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmad MP was present as the chief guest and Sultan Ahmed, president of Uttara Welfare Association of Sector 4, as the Special Guest. They distributed prizes among the students for their academic excellence and winners of annual sports competition.

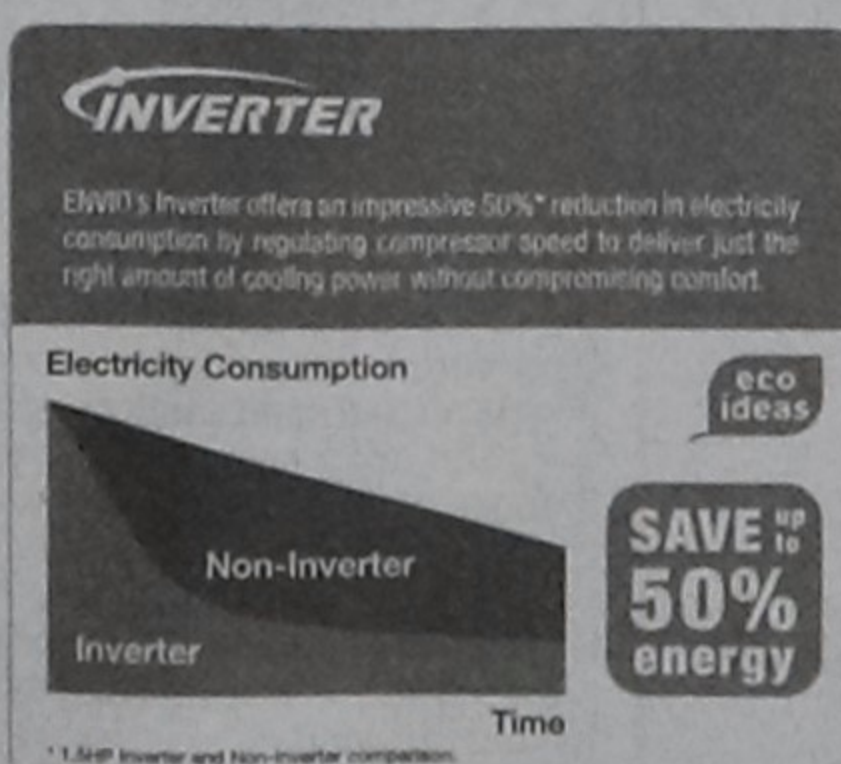
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