



## DENGUE CASES IN CITY ON RISE

# Early outbreak rings alarm

PORIMOL PALMA

The capital is yet again experiencing an early outbreak of dengue and untimely rains may be to blame.

Like last year, Aedes mosquitoes, transmitter of the dengue virus, have bred early this year alarming authorities and city dwellers and health officials say there are chances their number would be larger.

This year, there have been frequent rains during January and April before the start of monsoon.

This outbreak comes after a record number of dengue cases last year and an outbreak of chikungunya last winter. Chikungunya is spread by the same mosquito.

At least 126 people were infected with dengue between January 1 and April 19, a number highest since 2000 for the same period, shows data from the health directorate.

In Bangladesh, most of the dengue cases are reported during June and October as intermittent rains and high temperature and humidity during the months create the ideal breeding conditions for Aedes.

However, the authorities last year saw a new trend of early dengue infection. During January and April 2016, at least 71 dengue cases were reported in the capital. At least 14 of them died. The total number of dengue cases that year was 6,020, the highest since 2002.

Pulak Priya Mutsuddy, an epidemiologist at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said of the total number of dengue cases between

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- 126 infected this year till Apr 19, highest in this period since 2000
- Early rain may be reason behind early outbreak
- Frequent rain creates ideal breeding conditions for Aedes mosquito
- Experts for intensifying mosquito control programme in the capital



Rickshaws and vans push through waist-deep water at Sholoshahar in Chittagong yesterday morning. Hours of incessant rain led to waterlogging in many areas of the city, causing untold sufferings to people.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



## The legend will sing no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He was the creator of some timeless tunes that epitomised melancholy, yearnings for love and depth of pain. His inimitable style of composition evoked an array of emotions among millions of hearts over decades.

A legend in every sense of the word, he had many an

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## No compromise on 15pc VAT

Muhith tells IMF govt firm to implement new VAT policy; WB to provide \$6b in next 3 fiscal years

REZAUL KARIM BYRON from Washington DC

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said there would be no changes in the government plan to implement a uniform 15 percent VAT rate from July.

"The IMF officials wished to know how we planned to implement the new VAT [Value-Added Tax]. We told them that it would come into effect in July and be set at 15 percent for two years," he told The Daily Star.

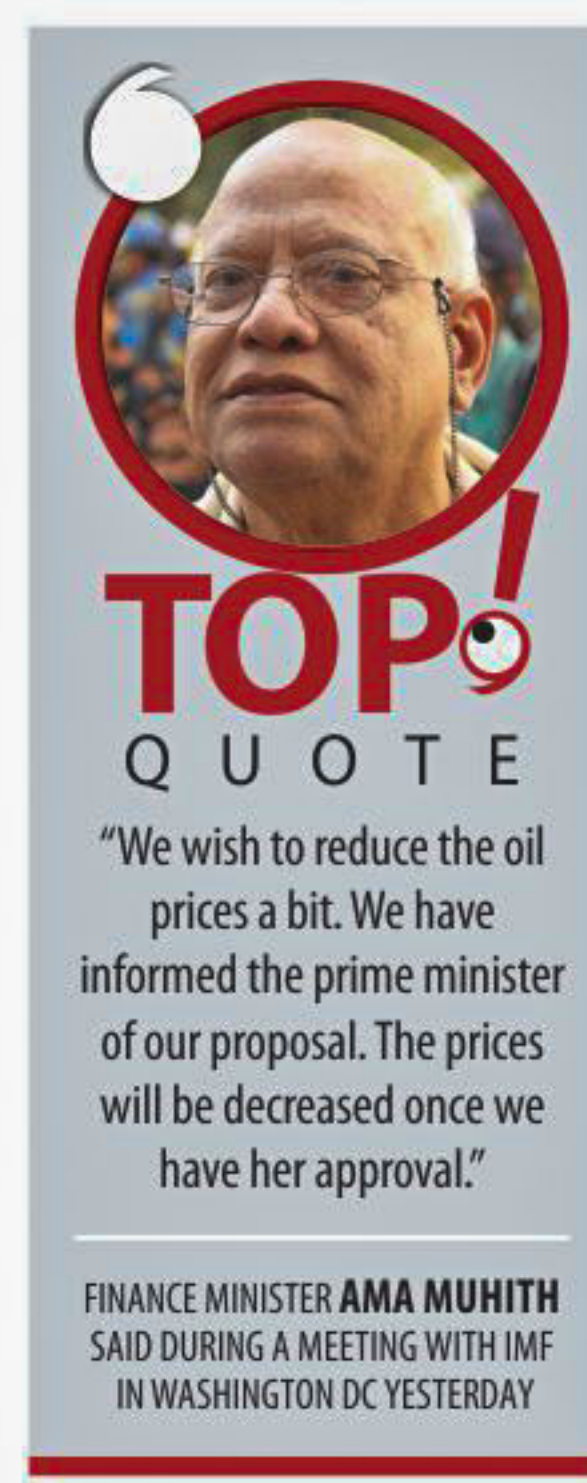
Muhith made the comment after holding

a meeting with IMF Deputy Managing Director Mitsuhiro Furusawa at the organization's headquarters in Washington DC on Thursday.

He, however, mentioned that some concessions may be made, taking the demands from businesses into consideration.

The finance minister is now in the US capital to attend spring meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund.

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TOP! QUOTE

"We wish to reduce the oil prices a bit. We have informed the prime minister of our proposal. The prices will be decreased once we have her approval."

FINANCE MINISTER AMA MUHITH SAID DURING A MEETING WITH IMF IN WASHINGTON DC YESTERDAY

## Vast areas in Ctg flooded after rain

City dwellers suffer as poor drainage system causes waterlogging

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Torrential rain for more than six hours yesterday caused immense sufferings to the port city residents, as many low-lying areas went under knee- to waist-deep water.

Commuters had difficulty finding transport to their destinations, as vehicles remained stranded on roads for hours. Many waded through waterlogged roads or took rickshaw-vans to travel.

Poor drainage and waste management systems added to the sufferings of the city dwellers, with many blaming the city corporation for its failure to address waterlogging.

"What's their [city corporation officials'] job? Is it impossible to address waterlogging in the city?" questioned Julekha Begum, who had to wait for more than an hour for a vehicle to go home in the city's Kapasgola area.

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## A CRUCIAL WATER SOURCE IN PERIL



The Demra-Matuail canal in the capital is heavily polluted due to years of waste dumping. From this canal, Dhaka Wasa (Water Supply & Sewerage Authority) collects water and supplies it to people after treatment. Nearby, there is a notice stating that polluting the canal is a punishable act, but nobody seems to be paying heed to it.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim



Shazneen Tasnim Rahman

SHAZNEEN'S 19<sup>TH</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY  
APRIL 23, 2017

For the 19 years that Shazneen was most cruelly and brutally snatched away from us, we have lived with a pain and an emptiness that should not befall the fate of any parent or sibling anywhere at anytime. However, we have had to accept everything and continue with our lives in a hurting and excruciating journey.

To share the pain, we call you all once a year to pray with us to The Almighty to grant Shazneen Eternal Peace and help us gather strength to carry on with our lives.

So, once again, we humbly invite you to join us at a Milad-Mehfil to be held **tomorrow, Sunday, April 23, 2017 after Asr (5:30pm)** at House No. NE(J)-4, Road 83, Gulshan - 2, Dhaka - 1212.

Latifur Rahman, Shahnaz Rahman and family