



"China wants a different American president."
US VICE-PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE ACCUSES BEIJING OF MEDDLING. [PAGE 8]



"Such a situation has been created before the election that people are not sure if they can vote freely. Election has turned into a farce now."
CPB LEADER MUJAHIDUL ISLAM SELIM. [PAGE 3]



"If the government thinks it will cling onto power forcibly, it will not be possible this time."
SENIOR BNP LEADER MOUDUD AHMED. [PAGE 3]

Dengue risk rising

New variety of the virus detected for first time in the country; most areas of the capital favourable for Aedes breeding

PINAKI ROY and HELEMUL ALAM

The graphs look chilling. A red line sharply shooting north, crossing a purple, a yellow, a blue and a green.

"That's what dengue looks like this year," said Dr Ayesha Akhter, in-charge of disease control room at the directorate of health, pointing to the red line representing the number of patients this year.

It's a record 6,479 as of Wednesday

since January, with three more months of the year to go.

"Look at last year. A much lower record," she said and pointed to the black line. Only 2,769 patients took treatment at hospitals.

And 2014, a blue line, looks so meek compared with the figure this year. Just 375 patients were admitted to hospitals that year.

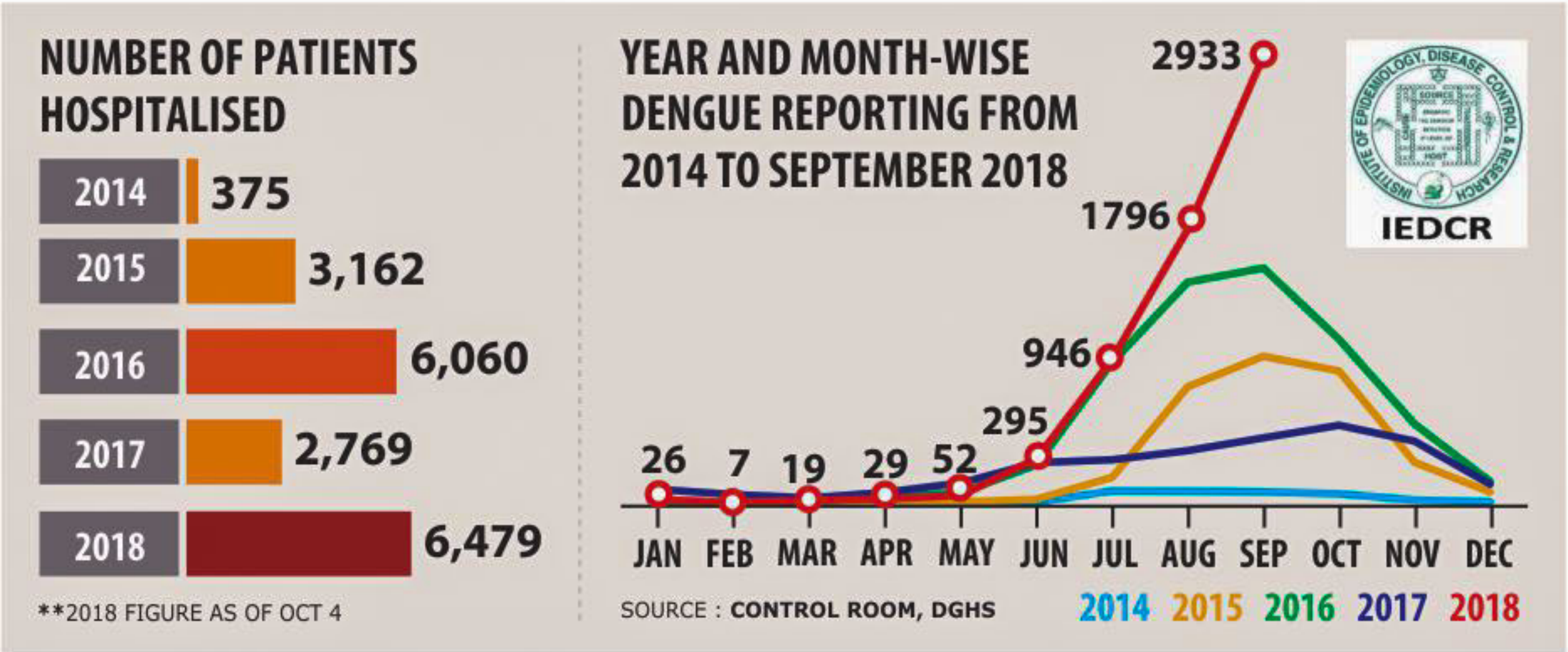
If this is not bad enough, then consider the fact that this year a new vari-

ety of dengue virus, called serotype 3, has appeared for the first time in Bangladesh.

"What makes this dangerous is that we now have more chances of cross infection of dengue. Suppose you have type 1 dengue and the next time you get type 2 or type 3, the danger of fatality will increase manifolds," Ayesha explains.

Such cross infections lead to haemorrhagic dengue which means the

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IGP asks cops to scrutinise dubious cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The inspector general of police (IGP) has directed the "unit commanders" to scrutinise why some deceased, expatriates, hajj pilgrims and paralysed men were made accused in cases filed on charges of planning subversive activities.

The instruction from IGP Mohammad Javed Patwary came in the wake of media reports that police in some cases implicated those people who were not present at crime scenes.

The cases were filed in the capital and some other districts last month, a few days after the BNP observed its founding anniversary on September 1.

According to the opposition party, 4,135 cases have been filed against 85,604 identified and 274,703 unidentified BNP leaders and activists from September 1 to October 4 across the country. During the

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BNP's agitation plan in 15 days

Party wants to keep pressure on govt before election, devise polls roadmap

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP plans to launch countrywide agitation soon after the formation of polls-time government to realise its demand for a free, fair and inclusive national election under a neutral administration and the release of its chairperson.

It will finalise the plan and also devise an election roadmap within the next 15 days, say party insiders.

The BNP will keep putting pressure on the government before taking part in the national election.

Though there was a difference of opinion on whether the party should go for agitation, its central leaders have now agreed to launch agitation across the country immediately after the formation of polls-time government, they point out.

They fear if the party participates in the election without waging "a movement", the ruling coalition will hold the polls in a "controlled manner".

"If we go for a movement, the government will be under pressure and the global community will also keep its focus on the situation. This time, it will

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The bodies of two suspected militants, killed in a blast during a Rab operation, are being taken away from a partly blown-off "JMB hideout" in Mirsarai upazila of Chattogram yesterday. Inset, the bomb disposal unit of Rapid Action Battalion arrives at the spot to defuse unexploded bombs.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

2 killed in terror den

Blast, firing as Rab raids 'JMB hideout' in Ctg; firearms recovered; the elite force says militants planned subversive acts at court building

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

A faction of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh had plotted to carry out subversive activities at the court building of Chattogram, Rab claimed after busting a "militant den" in the district's Mirsarai yesterday.

Two members of the faction were killed in a blast inside the hideout, a tin-shed house in Uttar Sonapahar of Joraganj union, during an operation of Rab-7, said the elite crime-busters.

The identities of the suspects, aged between 28 to 35 years, could not be known immediately.

"The two were active members of a faction of the banned JMB and we have information that they had planned to carry out subversive activities at the Chattogram court building," said Commander Mufti Mahmud Khan, director of Rab's legal and media wing.

The Rapid Action Battalion started the operation at the one-storey building, just beside the Dhaka-Chattogram highway, around 3:00am yesterday.

After the end of the eight-hour drive, Rab personnel recovered an AK-22 rifle, three foreign-made pistols, five improvised explosive devices, and a huge amount of grenade-making materials and some documents.

AK-22 rifles were used by militants in the Holy Artisan Bakery siege in Gulshan on July 1, 2016, Mufti told reporters at the spot.

With the death of two, at least 82 suspected militants have been killed in anti-militancy drives by law enforcers since the Gulshan café attack.

"Analysing our intelligence and documents found at the house, we learnt about the JMB's plan," Mufti said, adding that Rab foiled their attempt through this operation.

Sources said based on information from arrested terror suspects and intercepted communications of militants, the Rab men cordoned off the "Chowdhury Mansion", owned by one Mazharul Islam Chowdhury.

Sensing their presence, the militants started shooting from inside the house, forcing the Rab personnel to open fire in retaliation and called for additional force.

The gunfight stopped after around 4:00am and there was a massive explosion inside the house around 4:30am, said Mufti.

Rab later found two male bodies, both torn apart, and CID officials suspect it could be suicide blasts. The body parts were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The bomb disposal unit of Rab arrived around 8:30am and started to defuse the undetonated grenades

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Bangladesh players celebrate their fourth goal against Bhutan in their SAFF U-18 Women's Championship semifinal at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday. Bangladesh will play against Nepal in the final tomorrow.

PHOTO: BFF

From jihadists' slave to Nobel laureate

AFP, Baghdad

Nadia Murad survived the worst cruelties inflicted on her people, the Yazidis of Iraq, before becoming a global champion of their cause and winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

Murad and Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege were jointly awarded the prize for their "efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war," Nobel committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen said in unveiling the winners in Oslo yesterday.

The 25-year-old Murad, her thin, pale face framed by her long brown hair, becomes the first Iraqi to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

She once lived a quiet life in her village in the mountainous Yazidi stronghold of Sinjar in northern Iraq, close to the border with Syria.

But when the so-called Islamic State jihadist group stormed across swathes of the two countries in 2014, her fate changed forever and her nightmare began.

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NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2018 Award goes to two anti-rape activists



Nadia Murad



Denis Mukwege

REUTERS, Oslo

Denis Mukwege, a doctor who helps victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nadia Murad, a Yazidi rights activist and survivor of sexual slavery by Islamic State, won the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize yesterday.

They were awarded the prize for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said.

"Denis Mukwege is the helper who has devoted his life to defending these victims. Nadia Murad is the witness who tells of the abuses perpetrated against herself and others," it said in its citation.

"Each of them in their own way has helped to give greater visibility to war-time sexual violence, so that the perpetrators can be held accountable for their actions."

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