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MOSQUITO MENACE IN CAPITAL DNCC, DSCC doing little to contain it

HELEMUL ALAM

The capital's mosquito population seems to be rising, but the two city corporations are doing little to contain the menace.

The problem is particularly acute in Mirpur, Pallabi, Kalshi, Matikata, Bhashantake, Gulshan, Uttara, Senpara, Shyampur, Kamrangirchar, Manda, Kutub Khali, parts of Demra, Shanir Akhra and Jurain.

There are 569 bighas of water bodies under Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and 2,276 bighas under Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) that need to be cleaned immediately, said officials.

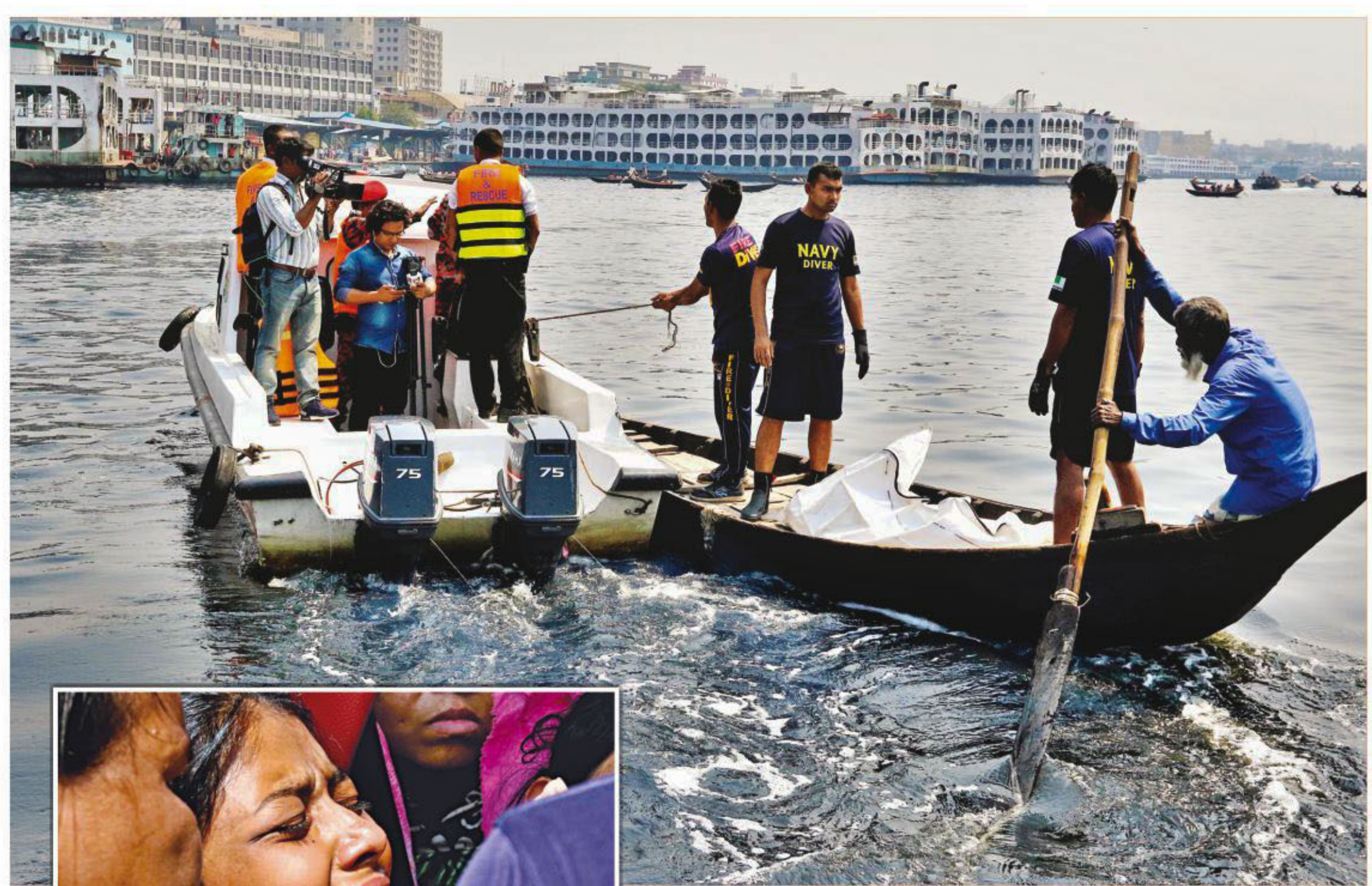
Precautions typically have to be taken before the culex mosquito breeding season (October to March) to effectively control the menace, they added.

The most effective method to combat the outbreak of mosquito-borne diseases is the use of larvicide, which is applied on stagnant water bodies, targeting to kill the mosquito larvae, said city corporation officials.

The use of adulticide sprays is also useful as it kills the flying mosquitoes, they added.

The primary responsibility of controlling the mosquito population lies with both the city corporations. However, the only step they have been seen taking is the occasional

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A boat carrying a passenger's body recovered from the Buriganga river in the capital's Sadarghat yesterday. Five of a family, including a five-month-old, died and another went missing when a boat sank after being hit by a launch. Inset, a family member breaks down in tears.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BURIGANGA BOAT CAPSIZE Four more bodies recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With bandage all over his legs, the only survivor Shahjalal has been going through a traumatic situation at a city hospital after losing six of his family members in a boat capsized in the Buriganga river on Thursday.

A tailor by profession, Shahjalal, 30, who managed to swim ashore with multiple fractures on both of his legs after being hit by a propeller of a launch, is now receiving treatment at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation.

Surrounded by his relatives trying to console him, he could sense what had happened to his family members.

"Please don't bury them without showing me their bodies... I want to see them," a disconsolate Shahjalal was imploring his relatives again and again.

Meanwhile, four more bodies were recovered

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Fire started on first floor Finds Home ministry probe into Chawkbazar blaze, suggests steps to avert repeat

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

A home ministry probe body formed after the Chawkbazar fire concluded that the flames originated from the first floor of Wahed Mansion.

But a forensic examination by experts may be able to find the exact cause of the fire, officials said.

The five-member investigation committee submitted to Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal its report with recommendations to prevent future disasters.

"The fire was originated at a chemical godown on the first floor of Wahed Mansion in Chawkbazar's Churihatta. The fire spread from there and turned devastating through an explosion," said the report submitted on Thursday.

At least two other probes also came to similar conclusions earlier.

The fire on February 20 claimed the lives of at least 71 people and injured many others.

At least four committees were formed after the fire.

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UK faces flak as IS teen's baby dies

AFP, London

The British government drew fresh criticism yesterday over its decision to revoke citizenship from a London teenager who joined the Islamic State group in Syria, after her baby died in a refugee camp.

Shamima Begum, 19, wanted to return home after giving birth to her son Jarrah last month in the camp in north-eastern Syria, but London refused.

A spokesman for the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, Mustafa Bali, told AFP the baby had died, without giving further details. The BBC said he had pneumonia, citing a medical certificate.

Begum's fate has sparked heated debate in Britain, which like many other countries is facing a dilemma over whether to allow jihadists and IS sympathisers home to face prosecution, or stop them from returning at all.

She was 15 when she left east London for Syria with two other schoolgirls, and was found by journalists in the refugee camp after fleeing fighting between the terror group and US-backed forces.

Begum told them she wanted to return home to save her baby, saying that her two older children had died, apparently from illness and malnutrition.

"I don't want to lose this baby as well and this is really not a place to raise children, this camp," she told the BBC at the time.

Opposition Labour MP Diane Abbott said the death of the baby was "a stain on the conscience of this government".

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'VOTE ROBBERY' CEC remark proves BNP's claim true Says Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

The BNP has claimed that its allegation of "vote robbery" in the December 30 national election has now been proved to be true with the CEC's comment that the use of EVMs can prevent stuffing of ballot boxes the night before an election.

"The chief election commissioner has said the risk of stuffing ballot boxes the night before the voting will be reduced if EVMs are introduced. The truth about the election has started to emerge," BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference at the BNP's Nayapaltn central office, he said Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul

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US town elects goat as 'mayor'

AFP, Washington

In a divided America where politics seems increasingly to get people's goat, a small town in Vermont has taken the concept to heart -- this week electing one as mayor.

He may be a political novice but the goat's name, Lincoln, brings with it a storied pedigree.

And the leading human official in Fair Haven -- population about 2,500 -- hopes the long-eared, three-year-old animal's election can serve as a bit of a lesson in democracy.

In Tuesday's poll, Lincoln was victorious over 15 other candidates including Crystal the gerbil and many dogs and cats.

Fair Haven has no official mayor but the Town Manager, Joseph Gunter, holds similar functions.

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'Robber' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A suspected robber has been killed in a "gunfight" with police near Agriculture College in Khulna city.

The dead is Mirazul Islam Miraz, 27, of Jabdipur village in the district's Sadar upazila. He was facing at least eight cases with Khanjahan Ali Police Station for theft, robbery and drug dealing, said police.

Sheikh Moniruzzaman Mithu, additional deputy commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police, said

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 10
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-45 4-30 6-12 7-30
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-45 6-15 8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Six-year-old girl raped in Laxmipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A six-year-old girl has allegedly been raped in Dalalbar area of Laxmipur's Sadar upazila.

The girl's mother alleged that her neighbour Imran, 18, took the girl to his room luring her with chocolates and raped her Friday noon. He later escaped as the girl started screaming.

Imran has been in hiding since the incident, she added.

The girl's mother has filed a case with Laxmipur Sadar Model Police Station.

Lokman Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station, said the girl was sent to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital for treatment. The law enforcers were trying to arrest the accused within the shortest possible time, he added.

Komolashis Roy, on-duty doctor of the hospital, said evidence of rape was found in initial diagnosis. However, he also said that the official report would be available later.



Farmers busy collecting potatoes, following what they said was a bumper harvest in Munshiganj's Sirajdikhan upazila. They credited favourable weather for the yield. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

WB okays \$165m to help provide for Rohingyas

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank has approved a \$165 million grant to help Bangladesh provide basic services and build disaster and social resilience for the Rohingyas who fled violence in Myanmar and took shelter in Teknaf and Ukhia upazilas in Cox's Bazar.

This is the third in a series of planned financings of approximately half a billion dollars announced by the WB in June 2018.

Earlier the World Bank had committed a \$75 million grant to provide for healthcare and educational needs of the Rohingyas.

The Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project will help Bangladesh cope with the world's fastest growing exodus, where the Rohingya outnumber the local community more than threefold in the Teknaf and Ukhia upazilas, said the WB on Saturday.

The project will help build and rehabilitate basic infrastructure, improve community resilience and help prevent gender-based violence.

This includes building a water supply system comprising community standpoints, rainwater harvesting, and piped water supply systems as well as improving sanitation facilities.

The project will also build and improve multipurpose cyclone shelters, roads, footpaths, drains, culverts, bridges and install solar street lights inside the camps.

"Bangladesh has shown great generosity by sheltering and providing for a nearly a million Rohingya people, despite its own development challenges," said Dandan

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