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"It is very alarming. You will not recognise her [Khaleda Zia] if you see her now."
MIRZA FAKHRIUL ISLAM ON KHALEDA'S HEALTH

"I hope that we would be able to get rid of the [dengue] situation soon."
DSCC MAYOR SAYEED KHOKON

"Sure. If that's the call, I'd happily go there [Iran]... I would welcome the chance to speak directly to the Iranian people."
US SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO

FEMALE MIGRANTS IN MIDDLE EAST

Caravan of corpses getting longer

Since 2016, bodies of 311 women migrants flown back home; high suicide rates raise questions

PORIMOL PALMA

There was silence all around, except for some dogs mildly barking, in the middle of the night. Some ambulances were parked just outside the airport's cargo area as five to six people sat on chairs under neon lights nearby.

They were waiting for the corpses of their family members returning from abroad.

Imran Sheikh, who came all the way from Jhenaidah to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, asked a security guard where he would find the body of his mother, Monoara Kanai Sardar, sent back from Saudi Arabia more than a year after her death.

As instructed, Imran, 22, and his father Jahangir Sheikh slowly entered an adjacent office to submit the documents required to receive the corpse.

Waiting at the corner, those people were sharing among themselves the stories of how their relatives worked hard in a foreign land and are now returning home dead. A broker, meanwhile, approached them to



Imran Sheikh with the coffin of his mother. offer ambulance services at a low cost. It was around 1:00am on June 28. A cargo handling worker was seen pushing a stretcher with a coffin on it. Imran and his father, speechless, followed him until the coffin was put on an ambulance. "This is the airport from where my mother had flown alive and healthy, but now she's dead," said Imran, from Raripara village in Kaliganj upazila. He is the only child of Monoara, 38.



Two dengue-infected children share a bed at the city's Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital yesterday as there is no bed available for new patients at the 850-bed medical facility due to the rising number of dengue patients. Many child patients even have to stay on the floor, inset.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

INVESTIGATION

TIB concerned at police role

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Transparency International Bangladesh has expressed grave concern over some law enforcers' role in allegedly diverting case investigations and failing to safeguard suspects in their custody.

The graft watchdog also called for judicial investigations into the allegations of misusing power by the law enforcers in some cases, including Barguna's Rifat murder, Fen's Nusrat murder, and the recent rape of a fifth grader in Cox's Bazar.

The credibility of local police has come under serious question following the allegation of forcing Rifat's wife Ayesha Siddiqua Minni, in collusion with an influential quarter, to give confessional statement about her involvement in the murder, the TIB said in

RIFAT MURDER CASE

Four accused still at large

Police hope to submit charge sheet soon

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, from Barguna

A month has passed since the murder of Barguna youth Rifat Sharif, but the police are yet to trace four accused named in the FIR of the murder case.

Police claimed that the murder was a result of an internal conflict within a "local youth gang". They made the claim on the basis of the confessional statements of 15 arrestees.

Law enforcers expressed optimism that they would be able to submit the charge sheet in the murder case to a local court soon as the probe was nearing its end.

Rifat, 25-year-old internet service provider, was hacked by some youths in front of Barguna Government College in broad day light on June 26. Later that day, he died of his injuries at Barishal Medical College Hospital.

The victim's father filed the murder case with Barguna Sadar Police Station against 12 people.

Barguna police have so far arrested 16 people, including eight named in the First Information Report (FIR), and Rifat's wife Ayesha Siddiqua Minni.

The four accused who are still on the run are Mohaiminul Islam, Rakibul Islam Rifat, Musa and Rayhan.

36 NEW DNCC, DSCC WARDS

No fund for mosquito control activities

HELEMUL ALAM

There are very little mosquito control activities in the newly formed 36 wards of the two Dhaka city corporations.

The north and south city corporations of the city do not even have any funds allocated for combating mosquitoes and managing garbage in the areas.

Thousands of residents of these areas are suffering from a mosquito menace amid the dengue outbreak.

The Dhaka North City Corporation about 10 days ago handed out a few fumigation machines and insecticides among the councillors, who have taken office in March.

But the initiative, lacking resources, is too little to tackle the mosquito population.

At least 9,657 people have been infected with the mosquito-borne disease in the country, according to the Directorate General of Health Services. Authorities of different hospitals in the capital said at least 28 dengue patients have died so far. But the DGHS

DENGUE OUTBREAK IN SOUTH ASIA

Climate change the culprit?

Experts say 27-32 degrees Celsius coupled with intermittent rains ideal for Aedes mosquito breeding

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

With the capital gripped by panic over dengue, experts said global warming resulting from climate change is a key reason behind the rising number of dengue cases.

They said dengue situation worsened in many South Asian countries due to global warming and that temperature ranging between 27 and 32 degrees Celsius was ideal for Aedes mosquitoes, the carrier of the viral disease, to breed.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, the experts also said Dhaka with its high temperature and humidity coupled with rapid urbanisation and in-termittent rain remained vulnerable to dengue outbreak.

"Climate change is a key reason for the rising prevalence of dengue in Bangladesh. Warmer and humid weather along with irregular rainfall helps Aedes mosquitoes breed and Dhaka is a perfect place for that," said MM Akhtaruzzaman, manager of the Directorate General of Health Services' malaria and dengue programme.

7 lakh yaba pills seized from boat

STAR REPORT

Coast Guards members yesterday recovered seven lakh pieces of contraband yaba pills from a boat in the Naf River of Teknaf early yesterday.

The boat was also seized, said Lt Sohel Rana, station commander of Teknaf Coast Guard.

Tipped off that a large consignment of yaba from Myanmar was entering into Bangladesh's territory, a Coast Guard team took position in the Naf River around 12:00am, the official said.

Later in the night, when a boat entered the maritime boundary of Bangladesh and approached the coast, the Coast Guard team signalled the boat to stop.

In response, the smugglers sank the boat and swam away, he added.

Later, the coast guards conducted a search and recovered the yaba pills from the boat, the station commander added.

A case will be filed with Teknaf Police Station in



Sri Lanka pace legend Lasith Malinga got his last ODI off to a signature start, bowling Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal with a swinging yorker during the first ODI at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Tigers fall short in Malinga's farewell

MAZHAR UDDIN from Colombo

The guard of honour from the vanquished Bangladesh team to give one last send-off to legendary fast Sri Lanka fast bowler Lasith Malinga said it all. The day and the night belonged to a champion who walked off the ground with head held high at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Malinga made his last ODI memorable with an outstanding bowling display as Sri Lanka, boosted by Kusal Perera's blistering hundred, gifted the fast bowler a perfect farewell as the home side clinched a comfortable 91-run win over Bangladesh in the first of three ODIs.

The 35-year-old was as venomous as he has been over the course of a 15-year career for Sri Lanka and ended up with figures of three for 38 from 9.4 overs, including two maidens, as Bangladesh were bowled out for 223 runs with fifty balls to spare chasing a big target of 315.

It was undoubtedly Malinga's day as he took the final wicket of Mustafizur Rahman and looked up at the heavens to thank the Almighty for his achievements over an illustrious career.

It was hard to tell that Malinga was playing his last ODI because he was as dangerous in the early exchanges as he had ever been. He dismissed Tamim Iqbal for a duck with a perfect inswinging yorker that the left-hander fell over trying to defend, but still could not protect his stumps.

Things went from bad to worse for the Tigers as Mohammad Mithun was next to depart for 10 off the bowling of Nuwan Pradeep and Malinga once again came into the act when he bowled Soumya Sarkar with another yorker.

Mahmudullah Riyad also departed cheaply to leave the

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PHOTO: AFP