

PHOTO OF THE DAY

SHEIKH NASIR



44 more dengue cases reported outside Dhaka

STAR REPORT

With frequent cases of dengue fever being reported in Dhaka, some 44 people have been infected with the mosquito-borne tropical disease outside the capital over the last four days, confirmed local authorities.

Citing those cases, doctors said the patients have recently visited Dhaka where there is a dengue outbreak.

IN RAJSHAHI

A total of 23 patients were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) with dengue symptoms in the last four days. Six of them were diagnosed with the virus, said RMCH Deputy Director Saiful Ferdous.

Among the 23, 10 were admitted on Thursday alone and six the day before, he said.

All of the infected patients have recently visited Dhaka, he said.

"We are yet to find anyone who didn't visit Dhaka and got infected with dengue," said Dr Ferdous.

In the wake of outbreak in Dhaka, the RMCH authorities have opened a "dengue

corner" with seven beds a week ago, said the director.

Most of the patients with dengue symptoms are taken to the hospital from homes or even other hospitals, he said.

One of the infected persons was Atik Hossain, a constable of Bogura Police Lines.

His father Babul Hossain said his son was sent to Dhaka on a five-day special duty while he was taking a two-month training at Pabna Police Lines.

On return a week ago, Atik had fever and consulted with a doctor at Bogura Police Lines Hospital, but it was too early to find anything serious, said his father.

Amid the situation, he went to Pabna to join the training. But, his illness forced him to get admitted to Pabna Medical College Hospital after July 21, said Babul, adding that three days later he was diagnosed with dengue virus.

As his condition was deteriorating, he was sent to RMCH on July 24, said doctors at the hospital.

Since his admission, he has been undergoing treatment at its intensive care

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Woman gang-raped in Pabna

Landlord detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A woman was gang-raped at a rented house in Pabna town on Wednesday night. Police arrested the landlord yesterday following an allegation of assisting the rapists.

The woman, 25, is undergoing treatment and medical examinations at Pabna Medical College Hospital. She had rented the house from Haidar Ali a few months ago and started living with her brother.

According to her, four youths entered the house while she was alone and asleep. They then raped, beat and tortured her.

The rapists might be local criminals, and they entered her home with the help of the landlord, she alleged.

She was taken to the hospital on Thursday night, said Obaidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station.

Police detained Haidar Ali from his house for interrogation following an allegation of the woman, the OC said.

When she is released from the hospital, she is likely to file a case, and police are trying to identify the accused rapists to arrest them, he said.

After preliminary examinations, Dr Nargis Sultana, head of gynecological department of the hospital, said they found evidence of rape and torture.

Road accidents kill four, injure three

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and three were injured in road accidents in two districts in the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents and news agencies.

In Kurigram, three people were killed and three were injured after a Rangpur-bound minibus hit the auto-rickshaw they were using in Kanthalbari College More area on Kurigram-Rangpur highway in Kurigram Sadar upazila yesterday, said police.

The deceased are Golam Mostafa, 35, his wife Josna Begum, 28, and his maternal grandmother Johara Bewa, 75.

The injured are auto-rickshaw driver Manik Mia, 35, Mostafa's daughter Mim, 15, and another passenger Jahedul Islam, 45. They were taken to Kurigram General

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'Considering everything, I think I'm successful'

AJM Nasir Uddin took charge as mayor of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) on July 26, 2015 with pledges to bring qualitative changes in the lives of city dwellers. He, however, found himself constrained with coordination crisis among different utility service providers. With four years in office, the mayor has made some significant changes. In conversation with The Daily Star, Nasir reflected on some of his achievements, constraints and future plans.

ARUN BIKASH DEY

The Daily Star (TDS): What were your plans when you assumed office and how successful are you in implementing those?

Nasir Uddin: There are 32 service providing organisations in port city and CCC, the lone organisation led by elected representative, is one of those. People's expectation from CCC is immense. When I took over, I had dreamt to build the city as a modern one like those of developed countries. I've taken many initiatives in this regard but no dream can be implemented overnight. Initiative, proper planning and implementation take time. Awareness and responsibility of residents are also vital to develop a city.

TDS: How do you evaluate your four years as mayor?

Nasir: CCC has three specific duties -- maintenance of roads and drains, waste management and installing and looking after street lights.

When I took over, the city's drainage system was in a bad shape. Many roads were battered. I have repaired damaged roads and improved drainage system. New drains have been constructed in many areas. I'm implementing a planned drainage system in the city. I've also introduced LED lights on streets.

To improve waste management, I've introduced a new concept of door-to-door waste collection. When I took over, garbage was left scattered on various intersections and roads. There were a total of 1,350 waste bins in the city and garbage was being collected during daytime. I've reduced the number of waste bins to 600 and introduced

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PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

HOW PEOPLE SEE IT

Mayor Nasir's major pledges included coming up with a permanent solution to waterlogging; a clean and healthy city; making CCC free from partisanship; developing road communication; facilitating recreational activities; increasing access to education and healthcare; and bringing back discipline in CCC. He also pledged to make port city a "dream megacity".

This correspondent spoke to many residents about the mayor's performance in the last four years.

Here's what they had to say: Praising the mayor for successfully removing illegal billboards, Shubheccha Ghosh, a master's student of Chittagong College, said, "I'm sure it was not an easy task... as the billboards mostly belonged to the pro-ruling party people."

Ratna Raha, a retired teacher, said the mayor's concept of door-to-door waste collection helped make the city cleaner. The resident of Jamal Khan Road hoped that such initiatives would continue.

There were some criticisms too.

Abdul Aziz, a resident of Panchlaish, said even though the beautification works in different

parts of the city were appreciable, some people were building shops over drains in the name of such projects in Jamal Khan and Kazir Dewri areas, among others.

Nur Uddin Ahmed, a resident of Bakalia, said, "The mayor pledged a permanent solution to waterlogging, but we have not seen any change [in the situation] although four years have gone by."

Prof Sikandar Khan, vice-chancellor of East Delta University, said, "We didn't see any significant changes over the past four years of the incumbent mayor. People continue to suffer due to lack of coordination among CCC, CDA and Wasa."

"Beautification works were not done in a planned way while no significant improvement has been seen in waste management," he said, adding, "However, he did remove the billboards successfully."

Anwara Alam, retired principal of Agrabad Women's College, said, "I would say the mayor is 50 percent successful." She mentioned removing billboards, installing signs in Bengali and organising Amar Ekushey book fair as the mayor's successes.

He, however, could not free

footpaths from illegal occupations, she said.

"Removing billboards was a good initiative but those are returning in a different form in many areas," observed Advocate Akter Kabir Chowdhury, president of Sachetan Nagarik Committee-Transparency International Bangladesh, Chattogram city chapter.

Also, waste management was better in the first two years of Nasir's tenure, and no significant development was seen in education and health sectors, he added.

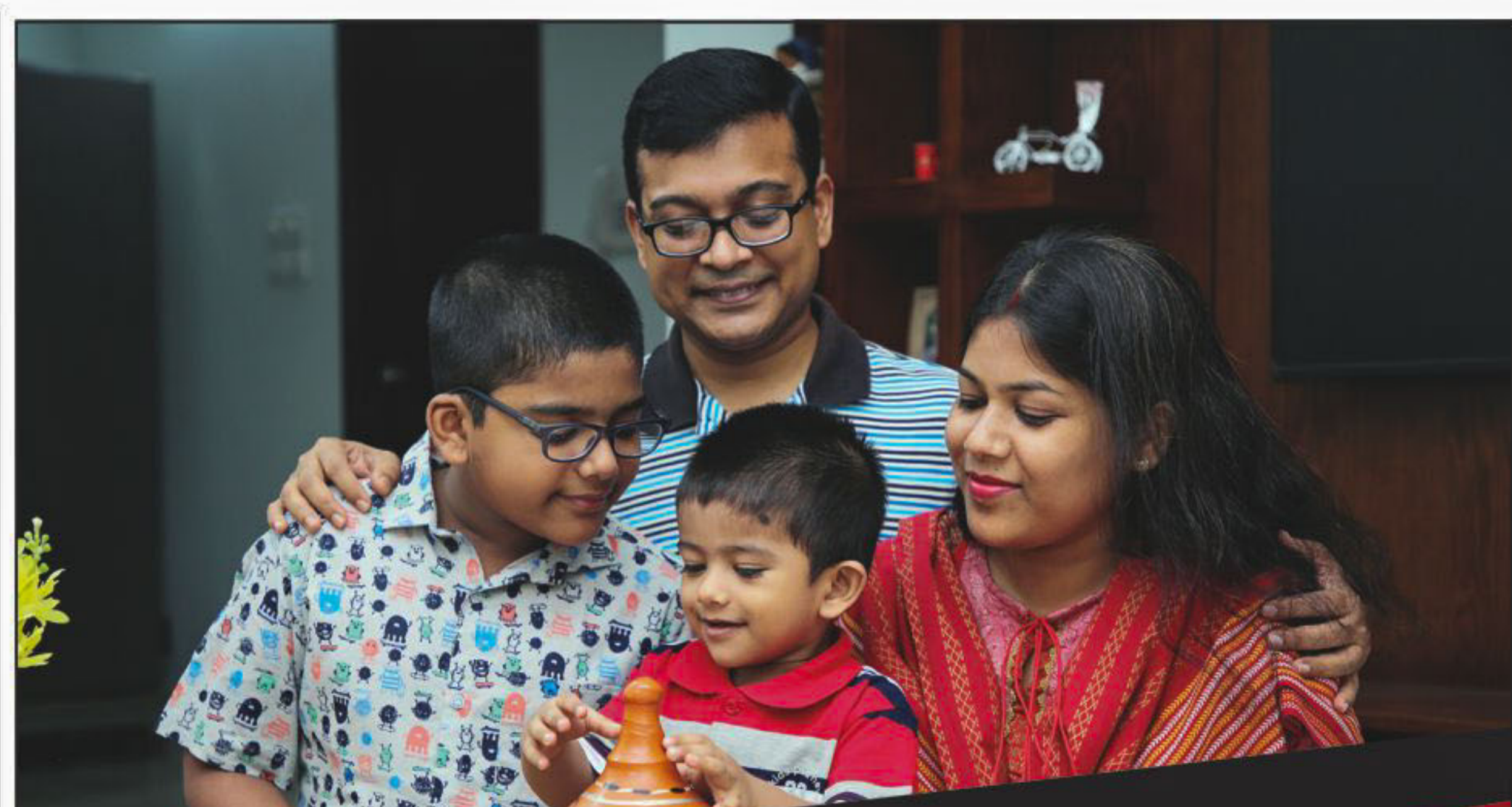
Abul Hashem Bakkar, general secretary of BNP's city unit, said the mayor has failed to meet the expectations of residents. "People continue to suffer due to waterlogging and battered roads."

Former mayor M Manjur Alam, who Nasir defeated in 2015 polls, said city dwellers are the best evaluators of a mayor's work.

"I would not say whether it has been good or bad... I would say he [Nasir] has one more year of his tenure left and many projects are ongoing... if he remains more conscious and responsible during this time, city dwellers would be benefitted," said Manjur.



As part of an awareness campaign against rumours of child kidnapping, an official of Bhuapur Police Station in Tangail speaks to people after Juma prayers at Dewanbari mosque yesterday. PHOTO: STAR



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Obituary



Mrs. Razia Khatoon, Wife of late Col. (ret'd) Dr. A.F. Matin passed away on July 19, 2019 at her residence in Uttara. She left behind her children, Dr. Shaukat Matin, Dr. Arif Matin, Meeta Quader, six grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her death.

Teenager found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the body of a teenage boy in Fatikchhari upazila of Chattogram yesterday afternoon.

The deceased is Sabbir Uddin, 17, son of Sahab Uddin from Dhurang union of the upazila, said police.

Sabbir went to a TV repair shop at Bibirhat on Thursday evening and went missing since coming out from the shop around 7pm, said OC Babul Akter of Fatikchhari Police Station, quoting family members. His family started searching for him on Thursday night.

Finding no trace of Sabbir, they went to the police station with a missing complaint that very night, said the OC. Yesterday, seeing Sabbir's throat-slit body at Karbala Tila in Painsdang union, locals informed police, he added.

Police recovered the body around 2pm.

The body was sent to Chattogram Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Sabbir's father filed a case with the police station.