



# Hospitals struggling

Number of dengue patients now 18-year high; 10,528 infected till yesterday, says DGHS; govt issues guidelines

HELEMI ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Last Sunday, when Shahjadi Akter's five-year-old daughter began running a fever, she rushed the child to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from her Hosni Dalan house. Doctors there diagnosed her with dengue, but could not admit her due to a lack of beds.

They told Shahjadi that since the infection was at an initial stage, it could be treated at home.

That, however, was not the case as the situation took a turn for the worse.

Five-year-old Alia's condition deteriorated and she was rushed back to DMCH around 2:00am on Friday. Again, there were no beds available.

Left with little choice, Shahjadi spent the next five hours going to three different hospitals -- Mitford Hospital, Icddr, and Dhaka Shishu Hospital

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Doctors grapple with a high number of people who thronged the emergency section of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the capital last night complaining of having a fever. Many of the patients fear that they were suffering from dengue.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Aedes Population

### Six-fold rise in four months

Govt survey finds; lack of manpower hampering mosquito control activities

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The concentration of adult mosquito in the capital is nearly six times that in the pre-monsoon period, a key reason behind the rising dengue cases, an ongoing government survey has found.

The density of mosquito larvae is also much higher, meaning the mosquito population will grow further in the coming days, according to the survey being done by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Experts say this rising mosquito population makes it clear that the mosquito control programmes are inadequate and ineffective.

"If the control measures were sufficient,

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## RIFAT MURDER

### Questions over a human chain

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, from Barguna

Eighteen days after Rifat Sharif was murdered in Barguna, a human chain was formed in the town to press for the arrest and punishment of his wife Aysha Siddiqa Minni.

A day after the programme on July 14, police took Minni into custody for questioning and showed her arrested in the murder case.

The next day, Minni was placed on a five-day remand. On the third day of the remand, police claimed she gave a confessional statement.

But the human chain, participated by several hundred people and held in front of the Barguna Press Club, has given rise to questions over it.

The Daily Star has talked to around 40 of the participants and many of them said they were asked to attend the

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## Record foreign aid in the pipeline

Reaches \$48b; govt uses it better but fails to meet own target

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Foreign aid in the pipeline surged to a record \$48.11 billion at the end of the last fiscal year and Bangladesh, despite spending more of the committed money, keeps on failing to reach its targets of utilisation.

At the end of the last fiscal year, fresh commitments amounted to \$9.8 billion and \$6.2 billion was used, the highest ever. However, the amount falls short of the \$7.5 billion spending target, according to data from the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

Between fiscal years 2012-13 and 2016-17, the government managed to spend between \$3 billion

and \$3.6 billion of foreign aid a year. In 2017-18, the spending went up to \$6.1 billion.

Despite this, lenders seem to be optimistic about Bangladesh, as evident in the growing foreign aid in the pipeline.

Ideally, the government should aim to use a fifth of the foreign aid in the pipeline at the beginning of a fiscal year, official sources said.

Last fiscal year began with \$44.51 billion in the pipeline; meaning \$8.9 billion should have been used. The government was not so optimistic and had set a target of \$7.5 billion spending. It missed that target too.

Several implementation challenges have to be

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## CAUSES OF FLOOD

### Heavy rains, shallow rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The flood has hit Rangpur division the hardest as it rained in the region almost three times more than it had until this point last year.

So far, 4,327mm rainfall has been recorded in Rangpur division until Wednesday. There was only 1,745mm until July last year, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

Mymensingh, Sylhet, and Chattogram divisions also got more rain than they had last year.

As the rivers became shallow over the years due to siltation, heavy showers caused the water bodies to swell and flood vast areas.

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## 3 college boys go missing in Dhaleshwari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Three students of Dhaka's Ideal College went missing in the Dhaleshwari yesterday.

The three -- Akash, Razon, and Mehedi, all grade-XI students of the college -- were swept away by strong current when they went swimming in the river.

Fire Service and Civil Defence in Savar conducted a search and rescue operation in the river but could not trace the missing ones as of 8:30pm.

Locals feared that the students drowned.

Bunking classes, 12 students went to their classmate's house in Savar's Banktown area. Around 11:30am, they went swimming in the river but strong current swept three of them away, said one of the students.

Two more students of

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A barbed wire fence has been placed on a Bandarban hill where six indigenous families had lived and farmed for generations until they were evicted last year to make way for a 5-star hotel. Inset: 75-year-old Brihopoti Tripura fears she would lose her homestead. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA