

Conjoined twins separated after mega surgery

AFP, Dhaka

Bangladeshi twins who were joined at the head were recovering yesterday after Hungarian surgeons performed a marathon 30-hour operation to separate their skulls and brains.

Rabeya and Rukaya, suffered from a rare embryological disorder affecting an estimated one in every five to six million births. They were "stable after the final separation," said Andras Csokay, a

neurosurgeon with the Action for

The three-year-old twins, named

Defenceless People Foundation (ADPF) that organised the 35-strong Hungarian surgical team. After the separation at Dhaka's Combined Military Hospital,

Csokay's team began to cover the wound area with soft tissues generated by a tissue expansion process carried out in Hungary. Rafigul Islam, the father of the

twins, was relieved and overjoyed. "The doctors have separated

my babies. I have seen them with my own eyes. They are now fine," said Islam, a teacher from the rural northwestern district of Pabna. He praised the doctors and

added: "I hope my daughters will fully recover and grow up healthy and have a normal life." Before the surgery doctors had

said there was only a 50 percent chance of the twins surviving. According to ADPF, only a

handful of operations to separate twins joined at the head have been successful. The Hungarian charity was set

up in 2002 by Csokay and plastic surgeon Gergely Pataki to provide free surgery to poor people in Hungary and abroad.

Islam and his wife approached the group for help in 2017.

In the first surgery phase in Bangladesh last year, the shared blood vessels of the twins' brains were separated in a 14-hour operation.

Then in a second six-month-long phase beginning in January, Rabeya and Rukaya moved to Budapest where doctors inserted an implant system to expand the scalp and soft tissue in their heads.

More than 40 plastic surgery interventions took place to fill the expanders, change the bandages and to perform laser and regenerative wound treatment.

ADPF has performed around 500 reconstructive surgery operations in Asia and Africa, including for Rohingya Muslim refugees in Bangladesh.

Oli urges SC to free Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Liberal Democratic Party President Oli Ahmed yesterday urged the Supreme Court to grant bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia considering her age and contributions to the country.

"I request the judges of the Supreme Court to immediately release Khaleda Zia [on bail] for treatment considering her age, contributions and her husband Ziaur Rahman's contributions to the

country," he said. Oli Ahmed, who floated a new political platform -- Jatiya Mukti and "restore" democracy in June,

Mancah -- in a bid to free Khaleda made the remarks at his office in Dhaka's Karwan Bazar.

Oli called upon the leaders and activists of BNP and Jatiya Mukti Mancha to get organised and be

vocal to have Khaleda freed.

He urged the people to take to the streets with peaceful programmes like rallies and processions to mount pressure on the government to release Khaleda and hold fresh and fair national election.

Bir Bikram Oli said they would arrange a programme in Dhaka on August 6 discussing the country's

overall situation. Senior leaders of Kalyan Party, Jagpa and NDP were present at the

press conference. Oli's Mukti Mancha is formed

consisting LDP, Kalyan Party, Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (Jagpa), Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish and Democratic National Movement.



A father with his daughters on the floor of the overcrowded Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital yesterday. The girls have been in the hospital with dengue for the last five days.

PALASH KHAN

Experts wary of next three months

FROM PAGE 1

"It was learnt in May last year that adulticides used for killing mosquitoes were not working and its cumulative effect has come this year," he said.

Prof Mahmudur said the number of Aedes mosquitoes found increased every year before but this year, all records were broken. "Aedes mosquitoes breed in relatively

clean water in and outside houses so we have to focus on those places." Since there is no effective insecticide,

priority must be given on other methods, like destroying the breeding grounds, Prof Mahmudur said. Micro planning like forming

volunteer groups at local levels to encourage households to destroy the breeding grounds inside houses is important, he said, adding that city corporations would have to destroy the breeding grounds outside the houses. Building awareness is very

important, he said, adding, "If we fail to destroy the transmission chain, the situation will not improve

Dengue patients must be kept under mosquito nets, he said.

Echoing him, Prof Kabirul Basar of Jahangirnagar University said community-based drives to destroy containers or pots where Aedes

sickening stench. They can't use the

water for farming or washing livestock

anymore. Their children have been

warned not to bathe in the river in fear

was a lifeline of the areas. From daily

household chores to fishing or farming

-- almost everything of their life revolved

all, but now those who are affluent

have opted for electricity-run pumps,

resulting in rise in the monthly

brought trouble to over three lakh

people of four unions, according to

Anwar Hossain, chairman of Hazratpur

the weeks and months after the Eid-

ul-Azha, when tanners will process

millions of raw hides in the estate. Most

of the processing job takes place after

raw hides of sacrificial animals were

processed after the Eid, said Shakhawat

Ullah, general secretary of Bangladesh

been minimised had the tannery

estate started its operation only after

completion of the central effluent

Amid environmental concerns,

installation of the CETP was a key issue

when the government decided to shift

the tannery industry from Hazaribagh

25 thousand cubic metres of waste,

the CETP was supposed to be fully

firm Ling Xi Environment began the

With a daily capacity of treating

operational in 2016 after Chinese hours."

Experts say the damage could have

Last year, some 70 lakh pieces of

The problem will aggravate in

The tannery waste dumping has

It was the main source of water for

But not so long ago, the Dhaleshwari

of water-borne diseases.

around the river.

expenditure.

Eid-ul-Azha.

to Savar.

Tanners Association.

treatment plant (CETP).

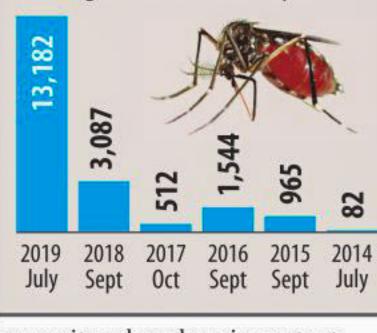
union.

people along the riverbanks down the latest being June 30 this year.

They can't sleep well due to a report as of June 30, some basic features

FROM PAGE 1

Months that saw highest number of dengue cases in last 6 years



mosquitoes breed are important.

"We should not depend on city corporations entirely ... community leaders will have to take initiatives and purchase fumigators and sprays to destroy the mosquitoes and keep their own areas mosquito free," the entomologist said.

Without community drives, the situation would be hard to handle, he

said. "We in our Jahangirnagar University Housing Society bought fumigators

and handheld sprays," he said. "It is a war against Aedes mosquitoes and communities will have to unite

Tannery waste taints Dhaleshwari

of the plant are yet to be set up.

China, say tannery estate officials.

the contaminating chemical.

protecting the environment.

Jahangirnagar University.

chrome-contaminated

the guidelines.

According to the latest progress

The sludge dewatering house has no

impact as the electro-mechanical part is

yet to be installed. The electrical control

cabinet is waiting to be imported from

units, with a treatment capacity of 350

cubic metres each, still cannot recover

completed CETP has little effect in

discharging the partially treated tannery

waste into the river. This is the main

reason behind the pollution of the

Dhaleshwari," said Prof Khabir Uddin

of environment science department at

CETP consultant team, admitted that

partially treated effluents are being

discharged into the river. But he also

blamed the factories for not following

contamination because only 60 to 61

out of 121 operational tanneries are

following our guidelines of discharging

"Chrome recovery units are not

He, however, claimed that the

Shakhawat Ullah, general secretary

effective and chrome contaminated-

water is being discharged into the river."

situation has improved over the last one

of Bangladesh Tanners Association,

rejected the allegation against the

factories. "The reality is they [Chinese

company] don't run the CETP for 24

month due to stricter monitoring.

through a separate pipeline," he said.

effluents

"We are yet to control chromium

Prof Delwar Hossain, chief of the

Besides, three chromium recovery

According to experts, a partially

"They have no alternative to

and participate ...," he said. **INFECTIONS EXCEED 21,000**

A record 21,235 people have been diagnosed with dengue this year, including 3,464 outside Dhaka, the DGHS said.

In the 24 hours until Friday 8:00am, 1,687 new dengue cases have been reported. Two pregnant women died in

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital in Dhaka on Wednesday and yesterday while three people died in Mitford Hospital, in Noakhali, and Faridpur. Maliha Mahfuz Anya, who was

undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of the BSMMU, died around 2:30am yesterday, BSMMU Director Brig Gen AK Mahbubul Haque said. Another pregnant woman Farjana

died Wednesday morning while she was receiving treatment at the hospital, he added. Railway employee Mosharraf

Hossain Raju, 30, died yesterday after being diagnosed with dengue at a Noakhali hospital. Anowar Hossain, 40, a human

rights activist of Munshiganj died at Mitford Hospital. Sharmin, 22, died at Faridpur Medical College Hospital on

superintendent of Fardipur Medical College Hospital. According to sources in hospitals, at least 50 people have died of dengue

Thursday, said Kamda Prashad Saha,

this year. The DGHS, however, puts the figure at 14. **DNCC MAYOR** Dhaka North City Corporation

(DNCC) Mayor Atiqul Islam yesterday said a sample of insecticide would be brought from abroad in a day or two. While addressing a programme in the capital's Uttara yesterday, he said,

"From now on, we will be able to buy

the pesticides to kill the mosquitoes. The quality of the chemical would be ensured by the authorities concerned of the government." He said complying with the High Court directives, the chemical would

be tested for effectiveness and then imported as soon as possible. The High Court yesterday directed the two city corporations in Dhaka

to import effective insecticides to eliminate mosquitoes from the capital.

It asked the government to support the city corporations after a dispute brewed between the two parties over who would bring in the insecticides.

river. "Children don't listen to parents.

Shimul, an eighth grader, showed

rashes on his body. "My family had to

spend Tk 5,000 to treat my skin diseases

caused from bathing in this river. Now I

said health problems like fever, cough,

allergy, and skin problems are on the

rise in the area due to contaminated

The Daily Star analysed the

Dhaleshwari water test reports from July

2017 to June this year, conducted by the

environment department considering

including

parameters

biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)

dissolved oxygen (DO) and chromium

waste has a negative impact on

found a slight improvement in DO --

"the rainy season has an influence",

at 1.5mg per litre, based on sample

collected on July 6 from 10 metres

downstream from the dropping point

of waste. It found BOD at 12.8mg per

"Higher level of BOD and lower level

Another test by Buet's civil

Dhaleshwari over the years.

The reports show that the tannery

However, the report on June 15

Rabeya Khatun, 45, mother of three,

don't bathe here."

river water.

different

experts say.

Double trouble

request of her parents.

Teacher held for

in Bogura

Shajahanpur.

Prevention Act.

headmaster, it said.

Contacted,

school.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

molesting student

An assistant teacher was arrested

yesterday afternoon for allegedly

molesting a 12-year-old female student during a class in Bogura's

The accused, Abdul Majid, a maths

The arrest came hours after

According to the case statement,

Abdul Majid, 50, molested the girl on

July 27 when she was sitting in the

first row during a maths class at the

girl's mother submitted a written

complaint against him to the school's

Khandakar, the headteacher, said

their primary enquiry found Abdul

Majid guilty. Based on that, the

not their student. She had failed

in her primary terminal exams and

was allowed to attend classes at the

Shajahanpur Police Station, said a

district court sent the accused to jail

Azim Uddin, officer-in-charge of

Jamal also said the victim was

accused teacher was suspended.

Following the incident, the

Jamal

Uddin

teacher in RRMU High School in the

upazila, was held from the district's

the girl's father filed a case with

Shajahanpur Police Station under the Women and Children Repression

Sherpur upazila, said police.

FROM PAGE 1 not afford. He earns no more than Tk

yesterday.

700 a day. The hospital authorities said Idris might have to spend Tk 10,000 more

for medical tests, food and other things during Rabbi's stay in the hospital.

Rabbi's mother Laily Begum said they had already spent over Tk 3,000 by that time for medical tests, medicines and transportation. "We could no way arrange that

much money. So we took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital hoping to get a bed there." The DMCH was, however,

absolutely flooded with dengue patients, she recalled, adding, "We had no other option but to return home." The next day, her son's condition

worsened and at one point, he fainted. "I was so scared. For a moment, I thought I would lose him forever. It would not have happened had my son received treatment right

On Wednesday, they managed to get a bed on the corridor of Shaheed Suhrawardy College Medical Hospital.

Sitting on the bed yesterday, Rabbi was eating some grapes with brief pauses. With a cannula inserted into his left hand, he looked fragile.

Laily, despite being devastated for having passed sleepless nights by her son, was happy that Rabbi was

recovering. She thanked the doctors "This is the first time my son is

eating something since he caught a fever on Monday," Laily said sitting next to him. She said they had already spent well over Tk 7,000 for the treatment.

"We took nearly a loan of Tk 10,000 from our neighbours. I don't know how we will pay the money back," she added.

Like them, many others, especially those from the low income group, were going through similar situation. For them dengue has come as a double blow: both physically and

5.2mg per litre against permissible limit of minimum 5mg. It happened because financially. At a time when the country's public hospitals are grappling with a engineering department found BOD

record number of dengue cases, these people can't afford to get treatment at private hospitals. Take the case of six-year-old Rahim

Kha for another example. Lying on another bed on the

public hospital's corridor, the boy, who lost his father five years ago, was recovering from dengue.

His mother said he was diagnosed with the mosquito-borne disease after they came to visit one of their relatives in Mirpur from Pirojpur.

Later, Rahim had been admitted to a clinic for two days.

"For those two days, the bills

jumped to over Tk 6,000. I borrowed the money from my brother and had my son released from the clinic immediately," she said. "I don't earn anything. I had to

bring my son here," she said, adding,

"I've already spent a hefty sum. I will have to spend my land to pay the money back."

Eid-ul-Azha FROM PAGE 1

son Ismail, who willingly submitted to the will of his father to please Allah.

But the Almighty in His benign mercy spared Hazrat Ismail (AS)and

Eleven killed in Savar, Thakurgaon Baliadangi upazila; Abdul Majid, Rahman, sub-inspector of Savar depot in Patenga of Chattogram, said College Hospital as their condition 52, and Khirish Barman, 40, of the Model Police Station. On Thursday night, two people deteriorated.

Two of them died on the way to the hospital, said Mosabberul Haque,

officer-in-charge of Baliadangi Police Station. The 10 dead are Mongoli Rani, 66,

her daughter-in-law Joba Rani, 35, of Dinajpur's Kaharol upazila; Abdur Rahman Tarun, 40, Md Mostafa, 40, his wife Mansura Begum, 30, Saraswati Saha, 35, Anwara Begum, 45, and Kamrunnesa, 50, of Thakurgaon's district's Sadar upazila.

In Savar, on the outskirts of the were killed in Dhamrai upazila in capital, Shilpi Akter of Cumilla, a student of Chattogram Mohila Polytechnic Institute, was killed as Dhaka-bound Moumita Paribahan ran her over when she was getting down the bus in Radio Colony area around 2:30pm, said police.

Later, other passengers caught driver Jahid Mondal and handed him over to police, said Shafayetur Summit Alliance Port Ltd container report.

(Dhaka region) of DoE, said, "We visit taking bath in the blackish water of the extended the deadline nine times, the the tanneries time to time." He added that there is a lack of They still bathe in the polluted river and

> practice of compliances among the get skin rashes." tannery owners and workers. "We haven't enforced any penalty yet, because most of the components

of CETP were incomplete. Recently

we have been informed that the

status of CETP is good. We will go for enforcement soon. He also agreed that the environmental degradation could have been avoided if the CETP was fully functional before the

tanneries had gone into production. Contacted, GN Paul, director of tannery waste management as well as the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate project, admitted that the tannery waste has contributed to Dhaleshwari

pollution. "Due to some internal problems, construction of the CETP was stalled for around two years. Now it has resumed. We will need a few more months to make all the components of the CETP functional and then the pollution could

be controlled fully." Asked what's the specific timeframe to complete the CETP, Paul said the Chinese company has asked for six more months beyond the June deadline.

The Daily Star tried to communicate with officials of the Chinese constructor over phone and email. But they didn't respond. Talking to newsmen on Wednesday,

Md Abdul Halim, secretary to the industries ministry, said almost 97 percent of work of the CETP has been completed

HEALTH HAZARDS "Water is slightly better now as it's

the rainy season. In dry season, it is impossible even to stand on the river bank because of the stench," said Laat Mia, a farmer of Chhoyghoriakandi village, on the west bank of the Dhaleshwari. While the 70-year-old was talking to

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, this correspondent last month, some killed the Buriganga, now it is killing construction in 2014. But the authorities Masud Iqbal Md Shamim, director kids were seen washing clothes and Dhaleshwari.

Dhaka-Aricha highway, said police.

was killed as a lorry ran him over at

Dhamrai.

of DO mean no aquatic animal could live in that water," said Prof Khabir Uddin of Jahangirnagar University. Asked whether the pollution from

litre in June against the limit of 5mg.

tannery can have direct impact on the public health, Prof Nazma Shaheen of food and nutrition science institute at DU, said, "The people in Hazaribagh complained of same problems when the tannery was there. She added, "Once the tannery

The victim, Md Russell, 35, of Madhya Halishahar in the port city, was working when the incident happened Dhaka when a truck hit a motorcycle carrying three people from behind on around 10:00am yesterday, said Nayek Abdul Hamid of Chattogram Medical The dead are Selim, 20, son of College Hospital police camp. Hamid said doctors declared

Korban Ali, and Masud, 20, son of Abdul Khaleque, of Balitha in Russell dead after being taken to the hospital. In another incident, a labourer

Our correspondents in Thakurgaon, Savar and Chattogram contributed to this

instead sent a ram to be sacrificed.