

Journos need

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expect them to also bear great responsibility. Such responsibility must entail, reflecting the whole truth, as opposed to simply highlighting fractions of it," said an HC bench.

The bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Mohammad Ali came up with the observation while passing order on a writ petition filed by SC lawyer Shahinur Rahman yesterday seeking necessary order on the issue.

He submitted the petition as some "online newspapers" published reports on August 2 "misquoting" the observation made by another HC bench on July 31 about the importance of people's lives and the protocol for VIPs of the country.

The court also directed the authorities to continue providing privileges (protocol) without fail to those who are supposed to get such privileges as per the warrant of precedence.

"... the deputy commissioners and superintendents of police and other concerned in the metropolitan cities and all other townships have been directed to provide the requisite privileges by virtue of the constitution, warrant of precedence and the laws of this land," the bench led by Justice Obaidul Hassan said in the order.

The court said, "It is important to remind everyone that when the justice of the courts think aloud and speak their thoughts; it is risky to take their words in that situation as being the ultimate version."

"In the case at hand, the words of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader had been taken out of context and has thus gone on to create confusion in numerous cases."

"In the future, it is imperative that people not jump to conclusion simply based on the word uttered by the court without having gone through the final judgment where the court is allowed time to reflect and properly circulate its intentions and thoughts."

The HC judges said, "Though we are addressed as 'My Lords' in our courtrooms, it is imperative that the justices of this esteemed court are still human. We are not infallible. In shouldering the burdens of our duties, we are sensible enough to recognise that we may sometimes not be able to articulate our thoughts with perfection. We are thus, often hopeful, that such instances are viewed with a degree of indulgence by those who understand the work that we do."

"Having said so, it is important to recognise that while we do speak our thoughts in court; sometimes it may be taken out of context and it may be so that some fail to understand the message that we intend to convey. And so, it is important to wait for the final pronouncement of our judgements to truly understand or grasp what it is that we, as justice, intend to relay."

During hearing another writ petition filed over with the death of 13-year-old Titash Ghosh, the HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader on July 31 made an observation about the importance of the people's lives and security of president and the prime minister.

Family sources said Titash died in an ambulance as the ferry, which was going to Dhaka, delayed loading vehicles for three hours to wait for the arrival of a government official.

The bench had observed that government officials are merely the servants of the republic, and they are not "very important persons" (VIPs).

Only the president and the prime minister of the country are the VVIPs (very, very important persons) and security issues are involved with regard to their movements, said the bench.

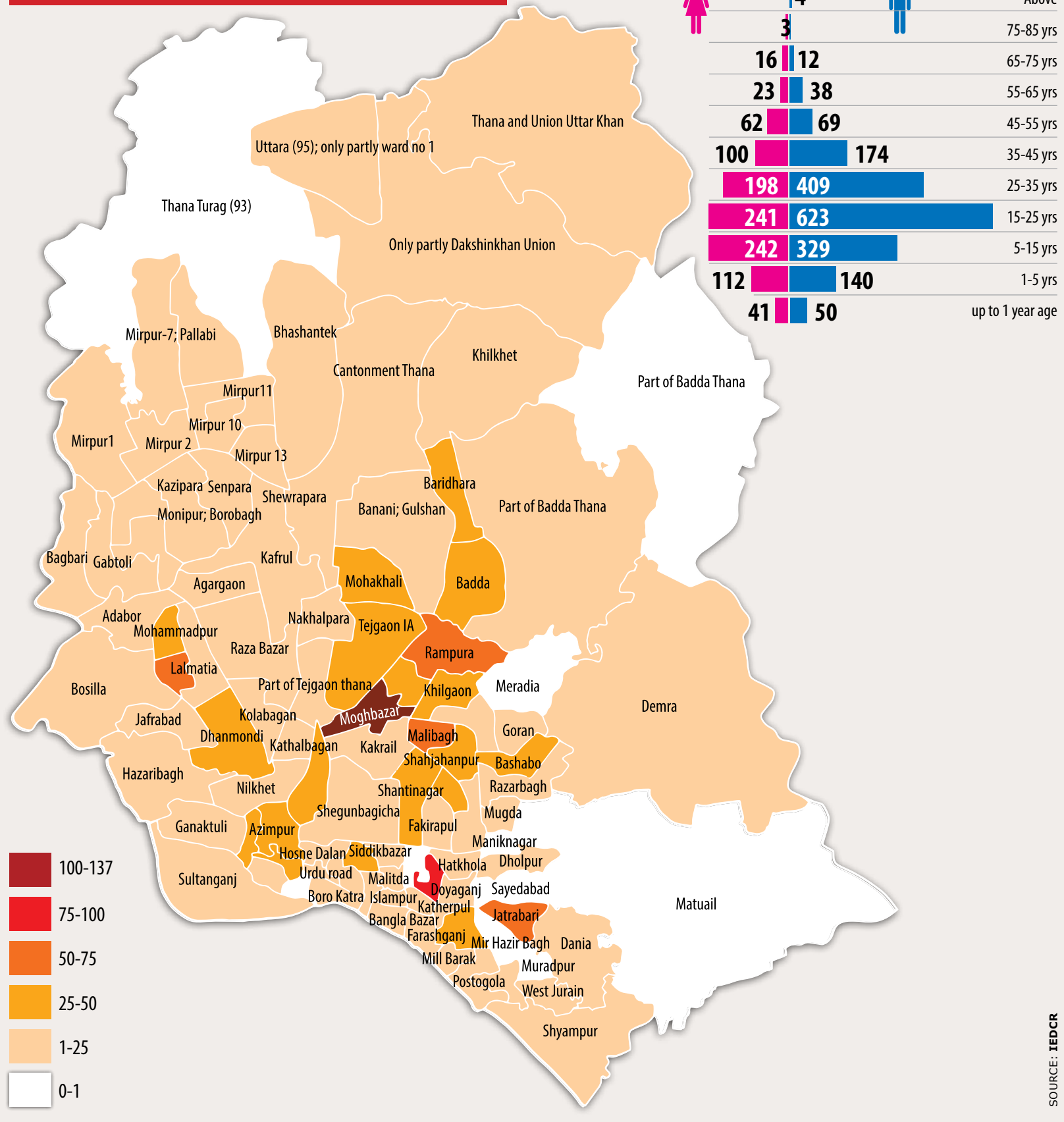
But some media on August 2 allegedly published reports misquoting the HC observation following which lawyer Shahinur yesterday submitted the petition before the HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Mohammad Ali.

In the petition, the lawyer said different "online newspapers" -- The Bangladesh Today, Dhaka Tribune Bangla, Awaz BD, Barishal Times, Channel24, Purbopashchimbd-news and 24 Live Newspaper -- have published news on the issue which are absolutely derogatory and disrespect to the honour and dignity of the SC.

He prayed to the HC to order the government to restrain the electronic and print media in circulating and publishing the news regarding the protocol of the SC judges.

Ekrumul Haque Tutul, Syed Mamun Mahub and Tapas Kumar Biswas appeared for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder represented the state.

DENGUE POSITIVE CASE DISTRIBUTION IN 2 DHAKA CITY CORPORATIONS



Railway employees spray anti-mosquito aerosol in a train carriage at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday before the train is to depart. The authorities decided spray every carriage recently to reduce the chances of dengue infection.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Upscale areas more prone

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Malibagh and Moghbazar have.

In the capital, Moghbazar has been the worst affected, with at least 137 dengue patients taking treatment. Malibagh, next to Moghbazar, saw the second highest number of patients -- 75-100. As high as 40 percent households in this neighbourhood are infested with Aedes larvae.

The presence of larvae is similar in Segunbagicha, secretariat area, Dhaka University area, Sabujbagh and Rajarbagh, Narinda, Tikatuli, and Gandaria.

MM Aktaruzzaman, programme manager of Communicable Disease Control at the Directorate General of Health Services, said their survey team inspected under-construction buildings, semi-structured one- and two-story buildings, multistory buildings as well as unoccupied flats.

Concentration of Aedes larvae was high in buildings where people stored water for aesthetic purposes, he said.

"This type of mosquito needs clean water for reproduction," he said, adding that many flats in upscale areas had unused bathrooms with commodes where female Aedes mosquitoes laid eggs.

The team found larvae in discarded tyres, water on the floors, plastic buckets, pottery/clay pots, flower vases and trays and metal cans with water stored in them.

The survey on the concentration of patients was done analysing

information about 3,000 patients who took treatment at 12 public and 35 private hospitals across the capital since May 1 to August 2. The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research carried out this survey.

The survey on the mosquito larvae was done by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) from July 17-27. It covered 100 areas of 98 wards in the two city corporations.

Aktaruzzaman recommended further studies for better understanding of mosquito prevalence and infection.

5-35 AGE GROUP MOST VULNERABLE

Findings also show that most dengue patients who took treatment are aged between 5 and 35, with the number of male patients much higher compared to female patients.

Kankar Ghosh, an epidemiologist at Dhaka Shishu Hospital, said students and job holders are at highest risk as they remain outside home in the morning and evening hours, when Aedes mosquitoes are known to bite.

These mosquitoes usually bite people two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset, and people of these two groups remain outside home at these hours, he said. "For example, an officegoer leaves home before 8:00am and return after sunset."

And although people can keep their homes clean, they have to rely on the authorities or the city corporations for cleaning offices and educational

institutions, he said.

"The number of infections would come down by half if children stopped going outside their home at the risky hours," he noted.

The study found 56 percent children aged 5-11 were infected from schools, he said.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said students were very vulnerable as many schools, colleges and coaching centres were not cleaned properly, a reason why students are being infected there.

Situation worsens

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Hospital, it is 100.

So far this year, 8,863 patients got admitted to hospitals outside Dhaka with dengue.

In Mymensingh, 153 were taking treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) after 49 more patients got admitted in 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, said AB Md Shamsuzzaman, assistant director of the hospital.

Seventeen new patients got admitted to Pabna Medical College Hospital in the last 24 hours, said Ranjan Kumar, assistant director of the hospital, yesterday evening.

In Kishoreganj, 112 patients were taking treatment at different hospitals in the district, said Kishoreganj Civil

Surgeon Md Habibur Rahman.

EID WORRY

Worried that things could get worse during the Eid holidays when many homes in the capital would be unattended for days, the DGHS yesterday suggested that people cover traditional and western commodes before they leave.

It also asked them to remove water from the trays at the bottom of refrigerators, from air conditioning drain pipes, buckets, plant pots, and barrels.

The DGHS asked them to turn bowls, trays or kitchen pots upside down before they leave and cover water tanks.

The education ministry is also worried about the holidays. Education institutions will remain closed for 12 days.

The ministry in a circular issued yesterday asked schools to form six- to 10-member teams comprising teachers, staffers, scouts, BNCC members and students to monitor the institutions during the holidays so that Aedes mosquito do not get a free pass to breed. The teams would remove any stagnant water.

The ministry asked the offices of the institutions to remain open every day and teachers and staffers man them in terns.

MONEY FOR FIGHTING MOSQUITOES

The government has allocated Tk 51.5 crore to help Dhaka city corporations and municipalities fight mosquitoes, UNB reports

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Md Tazul Islam came up with the information at a views-exchange meeting with Bangladesh Climate Change Journalist Forum (BCJF) at the secretariat.

Of the amount, the two Dhaka city corporations were given Tk 7.5 crore each. Tk 1 crore each was allocated for Gazipur, Narayanganj, and Chattogram city corporations.

Other city corporations received Tk 50 lakh each.

The municipalities would get Tk 30 crore.

The minister said they were conducting mosquito extermination activities following Kolkata's experience. "The menace will be under control if everyone keeps premises of their homes and offices clean."

He said, "Kolkata achieved a lot by raising public awareness. They say they've got rid of this problem as 90 percent of the people were aware of dengue."

Meanwhile, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday asked the authorities concerned to stop spraying ineffective anti-mosquito chemicals, reports UNB.

"Effective insecticide will arrive in Dhaka within two to four days and during this period there's no need to spray ineffective chemicals to show off," he said after attending a cleanliness drive in the city's Mirpur Mazar Road area.

Our, Dinajpur, Pabna, and Mymensingh correspondents also contributed to the report.

OC, ASI closed

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by the Railway Police over the gangrape.

In the evening of August 2, the 30-year-old woman was detained inside a train by Railway Police in Khulna's Phultala Railway Station.

She was then taken to Khulna Railway Station and then to a residential building for members of General Railway Police (GRP) where she was gangraped by the OC and four other policemen, her sister said.

The next day, the alleged rapists filed a case against the victim for possessing five bottles of Phensedyl, after which a court sent her to jail.

On Sunday, the victim filed a bail petition with the district's additional chief judicial magistrate's court. She also filed a complaint against the policemen with the court that day, the sister added.

Yesterday, the woman's lawyer Faruq Ahmed filed another bail petition with the court, which again rejected it, said the counsel, adding that they would file a case receiving the medical report.

On Tuesday, Khulna Medical College Hospital's forensic department chief Dr Shafuzzaman said it might take around a week to prepare the report.

Meanwhile, talking to The Daily Star yesterday, the victim's brother said he had gone to the police station immediately after his sister was detained.

He alleged that policemen there demanded Tk 1.5 lakh for her release.

"Primarily GRP members told me that my sister stole a mobile phone. When I opposed the allegation, they misbehaved with me and asked me to leave," he said.

"I stayed at the police station till 9:00pm. I repeatedly told them that my sister is innocent, but they did not pay any heed."

He further said their family continued to pass days in fear as policemen kept them under watch.

The mother of the woman, a 30-year-old widow, talked about the same fear while speaking to the correspondent at her home in Khulna city on Tuesday.

The brother added that members of a probe committee, formed by the Railway Police, assured them yesterday that the investigation would be fair.

The Daily Star repeatedly called the OC and the ASI yesterday for comments. They, however, did not answer the calls.

Earlier, the OC had denied his involvement in the rape, terming the allegation false and baseless. Even, he claimed he was not present at the police station that night.

Meanwhile, the incident has sparked outrage in Khulna.

On Tuesday, a human chain was formed at the city's Picture Palace area, demanding investigation into the rape and punishment of the rapists.

Civil society members and rights bodies also demanded an impartial investigation.

We want justice. It's possible only when the investigation will be conducted impartially and fairly," Advocate Mominul Islam, a civil society member in Khulna, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Greek police search for missing British scientist

AFP, Athens

Greek police have launched a large-scale search for a 35-year-old British scientist who went missing on the Aegean island of Ikaria, officials said yesterday.

Nicosia-based astrophysicist Natalie Christopher, who had been on holiday with her partner, reportedly failed to return from a run on Monday.

"A police helicopter carrying officers and special equipment to locate missing persons left Athens on Tuesday night," a spokeswoman for the Greek police told AFP.

They joined Ikaria port patrols, firefighters and volunteers already combing areas for the scientist, Northern Aegean police said in a statement.

According to Greek and Cypriot media, Christopher and her 38-year-old partner had arrived on Ikaria on Saturday and stayed near the port of Agios Kirykos. She left their hotel for a jog on Monday morning but never returned, her partner told media.

Police have opened a preliminary investigation into the circumstances of her disappearance.

The incident comes three weeks after the murder of US molecular biologist Suzanne Eaton on the Greek island of Crete.

The 59-year-old had been attending a conference near the city of Chania and gone out on July 2 without taking her mobile phone, the police said.

Her body was only found six days later in an abandoned World War II bunker near the town of Hania.

A 27-year-old farmer confessed to raping and killing Eaton, who had worked for the Max Planck Institute at Dresden University.