



A winter to watch

Experts fear simultaneous outbreaks of dengue, common cold during pandemic can pin healthcare system

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and WASIM BIN HABIB

The temperature drop over the last few days means that the season of cold and flu is around the corner.

But this winter comes with additional concerns over a possible surge in other illnesses, including Covid-19.

The country has already been witnessing a spike in the number of coronavirus cases and deaths caused by Covid-19. Moreover, people falling ill from dengue and Nipah viruses are posing new challenges to public health.

Experts said the overlap of Covid-19, flu and other cold-related diseases like pneumonia could complicate the diagnosis and become a burden on the healthcare system.

Covid-19 and the flu are both contagious respiratory illnesses with similar symptoms. Children and elderly people, especially those with preexisting breathing problems, are susceptible to such illnesses due to low humidity, less sunlight, mild vitamin D deficiency and impaired immunity, they added.

The deadly coronavirus would continue circulating in the population if measures like the use of masks, social distancing and screening at airports are not taken properly, they warned.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Rigorous steps a must to curb virus infection

Experts say as deaths from Covid on rise

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The total number of deaths for coronavirus surpassed 6,500 mark in the country as 37 more died of the virus in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Based on weekly analysis of the number of infections, a total of 15,279 people were tested positive for the virus in the last week from last Friday.

The number was 13,961 in the previous week, according to data of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Besides, the number of daily new cases surpassed 2,000 mark on November 16 which did not go down ever since except on Saturday November 21. On the day the number was 1,847.

Considering the increasing trend in deaths and infections in the last one month, experts said the needed rigorous infection control and uninterrupted oxygen supply at more hospitals to save lives.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

DRAINAGE SYSTEM IN THE CAPITAL

City corporations to take control

Govt decides in principle to hand it over from Dhaka Wasa

HELEMUL ALAM

The government has decided in principle to hand over the drainage system of Dhaka city from Wasa to the two city corporations to solve the city's longstanding waterlogging problem.

The decision was taken at a meeting headed by LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam, in presence of two Dhaka city corporations mayors and Wasa's managing director.

The meeting also formed a 14-member committee, headed Muhammad Ibrahim, additional secretary of Local Government Division.

Sayed Ur Rahman, deputy secretary of the ministry, will be member secretary of the committee while four members each from the two city corporations and Wasa will be included as well.

"The committee will submit its report within a month and then we will move forward to the handing over the drainage system after considering all the aspects like the legal side," said Tazul Islam.

He said that though it is the mandate of the two city corporations to solve the water logging problem of Dhaka city, the work was handed over to Wasa long before through an order of the president.

Now logistics, manpower and many other things will have to be

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Take proper action against crimes, graft

PM to admin officers

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the administration cadre officers to build a nice society taking proper measures against different social malaises like rape, terrorism, militancy, and corruption, without considering the identities and political affiliations of the criminals.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

UNEQUIPPED MORGUES

Tricky autopsy gives doctors hard times

Risk of faulty report remains as well

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Salauddin Khan, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, lost his life during the Holey Artisan siege on July 1, 2016. Police officials suspected he had suffered bullet injuries during the operation to free the hostages.

But the doctors at Dhaka Medical College morgue initially did not find any bullet in

his body after dissecting all major parts.

They even cut the spinal cord into pieces, and finally a grenade splinter was found stuck between two bones.

"It took more than three hours and we literally had to dismember the body as we don't have a digital portable x-ray machine," said Sohel Mahmud, chief of the forensic department of DMC.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



NOT EASY FOR VULNERABLE

The sick, elderly have to cross busy street to get tested for Covid

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Abu Taher, a 57-year-old man suffering from spinal pain, hip fracture, diabetes, and kidney problems, braved traffic in front of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for three days on a wheelchair to be tested for Covid-19.

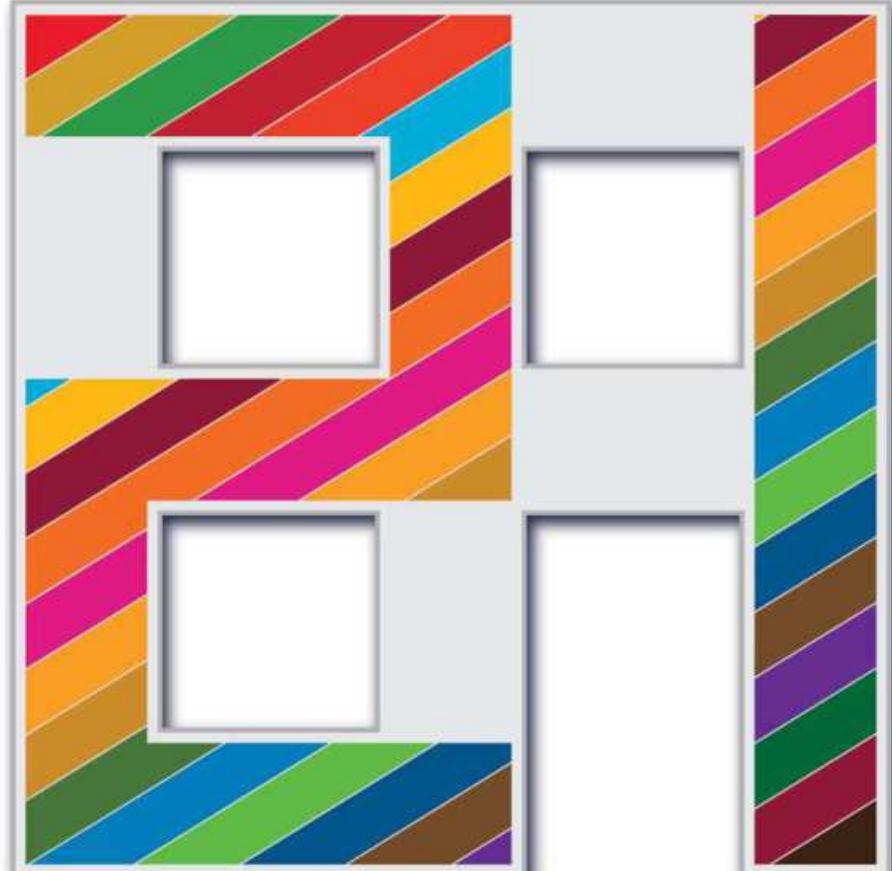
Abu Taher and his son Al-Amin came from Chandpur for treatment at the BSMMU on November 8. After going from one department to the other, doctors of the orthopaedic department said on Sunday that he has to be admitted, but needed a coronavirus test for that.

The fever clinic where tests are conducted is outside the BSMMU premises, situated on the opposite side of the road.

This correspondent saw Abu Taher being pushed on a wheelchair by his son towards the Shahbagh intersection on Tuesday, the day his sample was collected after they had waited in vain the previous two days.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

গ্রাহক নির্ভরতায় ২১ পেরিয়ে



সমৃদ্ধির পথে অগ্রয়ান্তর ২১ বছর পূর্ণ করেছে ব্যাংক এশিয়া। দীর্ঘ এই পথচালায় গ্রাহক নির্ভরতাহি আমাদের সবচেয়ে বড় শক্তি। এমন নির্ভরতায় পাশে থাকার জন্য সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক, সহযোগী ও শুভাবুধ্যায়ীদের প্রতি আমাদের অশেষ ধন্যবাদ ও কৃতজ্ঞতা।