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Dengue fear creeping in amid Covid

June accounts for 59.5pc of infections in last 6 months

HELEMUL ALAM

With the onset of monsoon in the country creating suitable breeding conditions for Aedes mosquito larvae, the month of June has so far accounted for 59.5 percent of the dengue cases recorded this year.

The number of infected patients yesterday was 12. Aedes mosquitoes are carriers of the dengue and chikungunya viruses.

Experts warned that if authorities concerned and people of the country do not take necessary steps to destroy breeding sources, there is a danger that dengue cases may increase fast.

That would be even more dangerous than other years because health services in the country are already strained due to the coronavirus pandemic, they said.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 247 patients have so far been infected with dengue virus since January 1, 12 of whom were infected yesterday.

Of the total people infected this year, 147 were infected in the first 23 days of June -- or 59.5 percent of the total infected.

Manzur Chowdhury, entomologist and former president of Zoological Society of Bangladesh, said the dengue

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Hard to imagine that this is actually a canal meant for draining storm water out. Excavation of the canal had started but it was not completed. The photo was taken near Kamrangirchar in Dhaka.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

KUSHIA LAND OFFICE Two staffers 'ask for bribe' from DAG

Offer 'concession' after knowing his identity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, KUSHIA

Two employees of Kushiya Sub-Registrar's Office demanded a bribe of Tk 30,000 from Deputy Attorney General (DAG) BM Abdur Rafel for preparing deeds of his family land.

DAG Rafel's brother had to bribe the office Tk 10,000 for the papers, he alleged.

According to Rafel, he went to the sub-registrar's office yesterday where peon Akkas Ali and clerk Rafiqul Islam Mukul demanded a bribe of Tk 30,000.

Asked whether they would provide any receipt for the money, the employees expressed their inability, he added.

After being informed about the identity of Rafel, the duo even offered him Tk 5,000 concession, he said.

"I left the sub-registrar's

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Woman raped in moving truck

Driver, helper arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, PABNA

Police arrested a truck driver and his helper on Tuesday night over the rape of a 20-year-old woman on their moving truck on Dhaka-Sirajganj Highway.

Trucker Sohail Rana, 32, and his helper Abdul Wahab, 30, were picked up from Koddar intersection of Bangabandhu Bridge (west) connecting road in Sirajganj.

Police also rescued the victim and seized the truck.

Mosaddek Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge West Zone Police Station, said the woman boarded the truck on Tuesday afternoon to go home in Sirajganj's Raiganj.

The truck bound for Bogra was carrying some other passengers who got down in Elega area of Tangail. Sohail Rana and Wahab then took the woman to the truck's cabin.

Seeing this, passengers who got off the vehicle called 999 to report the incident

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladesh govt tells Nixon not to contribute to genocide

JUNE 24, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

NAZRUL'S TELEGRAM TO NIXON

Acting president of the Government of Bangladesh Syed Nazrul Islam strongly deprecated renewed US arms supply to Pakistan. In a telegram to US President Richard Nixon, Nazrul said the government and people of Bangladesh were most hurt and distressed to learn about the arms supply.

He pointed out that Pakistan was using all the weapons in its armoury including boats supplied for relief purposes to commit genocide and said, "As an independent and sovereign nation now, we appeal to conscience and even national interest of United States not to contribute to genocide and mass eviction of people and destruction of scarce resource of an impoverished nation."

A foreign office spokesman of the Bangladesh government described the renewed sale as a "stern blow to the bleeding people of Bangladesh" and declared that the Liberation War would be

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PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT Chinese engr goes missing while working on a barge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, MUNSHIGANJ

A Chinese engineer working in the Padma Bridge project went missing from Lauhajang upazila of Munshiganj on Tuesday night.

It is suspected that Jha, 38, who joined the project six months ago, fell into the Padma river from a barge.

Jha was last seen on the under-construction barge in the river around 8:00pm on Tuesday, Project Director Shafiqul Islam said yesterday.

Divers from fire service, coasts guard, river police, and army personnel

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Scientists recreate cave lighting systems used by early humans



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have recreated the three common types of lighting systems – torches, grease lamps, and fireplaces – used by stone age humans to illuminate their caves — an advance which sheds light on how Paleolithic people might have traveled, lived, and created art in the depths of their caves.

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Outcry as HK's Apple Daily shuts down

AGENCIES

Hong Kong's pro-democracy tabloid Apple Daily announced it will print its last edition today after a stormy year in which it was raided by police and its tycoon owner and other staff were arrested under a new national security law.

The closure of the

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-52 8-17
JAMAAT 4-20 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Two people carrying Sultan Miah, a patient with breathing difficulties and kidney issues, into Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Sultan came from Jamalpur to have treatment at DMCH. According to the DGHS, 85 people died of Covid-19 in 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday and 5,727 tested positive.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

New variant rings alarm

India says 'delta plus' now a Covid variant of concern as nearly two dozen cases detected in three states

AGENCIES

India has declared a new coronavirus variant to be of concern, and said nearly two dozen cases had been detected in three states so far.

The variant AY.1, identified locally as "Delta plus" and first identified in Europe, has been found in at least 22 cases across Maharashtra, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh states, the health ministry said.

The ministry also said Delta plus showed increased transmissibility and advised states to increase testing. Health experts warned that it may

trigger a third Covid-19 wave in the country.

India vaccinated a record 8.6 million people on Tuesday as it began offering free shots to all adults, but experts doubted it could maintain that pace.

The country reported 50,848 new infections over the past 24 hours, health ministry data showed yesterday. The South Asian nation's total infections now stand at 30.03 million, according to a Reuters tally.

The Indian health ministry said the Delta plus variant has also been found in at least nine countries, including

the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, Russia, India, Portugal, Switzerland, Nepal and China.

This variant could account for 90 percent of new Covid cases in the European Union in the coming months, the bloc's disease control agency said yesterday.

This variant of the coronavirus now represents more than 20 percent of infections in the US in the last two weeks, or double what it was when the Centers for Disease Control last reported on the variant's prevalence.

Dr Anthony Fauci, the country's top

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AB Bank Inaugurates Automated Challan System Service- The first among the Private Commercial Banks



AB Bank is the first private sector bank to introduce ACS, an initiative of the Ministry of Finance and Bangladesh Bank. Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Senior Management of the Bank were also present during the inauguration. The Automated Challan System will enable fast and secure deposit of VAT, Tax, Govt. fees etc. This new system will reduce time and the possibility of fraud. Under ACS, treasury invoices can be deposited through cash or through cheque at any AB Bank branches or through on-line. Honorable Deputy Governor Mr. Ahmed Jamal lauded the Managing Director of AB Bank for playing a leadership role in this initiative. He said in his speech "I would like to thank AB Bank for launching the first Automated Challan System among the private banks". He mentioned that among all private banks AB has been actively engaged with Bangladesh Bank in introducing this service which made it possible for them to be the first.

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