

## Another 30 dengue patients hospitalised in Dhaka in 24 hrs

UNB, Dhaka

Thirty new patients diagnosed with dengue were admitted to different hospitals in Dhaka in 24 hours until yesterday morning, as the mosquito-borne disease continued to rise during monsoon, authorities said.

A total of 93 dengue patients are currently receiving treatment at 41 government and private hospitals in the capital and one outside the city, said Directorate General of Health Services.

Meanwhile, none were reported to be receiving treatment for dengue in hospitals outside Dhaka.

A total of 434 patients have been admitted to different hospitals with dengue since January, and of them, 341 have been released after recovery.

Health authorities reported 1,193 dengue cases and three confirmed dengue-related deaths in 2020.

According to official figures, 1,01,354 dengue cases and 179 deaths were recorded in Bangladesh in 2019. Dengue fever was first reported in Bangladesh in 2000, when it claimed 93 lives. In the following three years, the fatalities almost fell to zero.

However, the mosquito-borne viral infection struck again in 2018, killing 26, and infecting 10,148 people.



While kitchen markets have been kept open during this 'strict lockdown' countrywide, there seems to be little care for social distancing at the Khilkhet kitchen market in the capital, where shoppers were seeing practically bumping against each other to get their daily supplies yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## No vacant ICU bed in Rangpur division

All 26 Covid-dedicated facilities in two hospitals occupied; no support available in other six districts

KONGRON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

With the massive surge of Covid-19 patients in the eight districts of Rangpur division, authorities of two major Covid treatment hospitals in Dinajpur and Rangpur have stopped taking patients with acute symptoms, as all ICU (Intensive Care Unit) beds remain occupied.

The authorities have already hung signs in front of these hospitals saying they have no empty ICU beds there.

Among the eight districts of Rangpur, only two hospitals have 26 ICU beds -- in Dinajpur and Rangpur. The other six districts do not have ICU support, according to respective health department officials in these districts.

The two hospitals are M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur and 100-bed dedicated Covid Hospital in Rangpur.

Sixteen of the ICU beds are in Dinajpur and 10 are in Rangpur.

"We are being advised to take patients to other hospitals as there are no empty ICU beds here", said Azadul Islam, who came to Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital from Pirganj Upazila of Thakurgaon with a Covid-19 patient needing ICU support desperately.

"I don't know where to take him", he said.

There is a shortage of ICU beds in Bogura too, he said.

A staffer at the Covid-19 unit of M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital, seeking anonymity, said that at least 20 acute patient who needed ICU support, were redirected in last 10 days.

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## LOCKDOWN ACROSS THE COUNTRY

### No more beach vacation in Ctg!

Additional police deployed in Akmal Ali Road area after videos of people by seaside go viral

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Additional police were deployed by the seaside of Akmal Ali Road in port city yesterday after videos showing a good number of people visiting the spot and youngsters playing football there became viral in social media on Friday.

The videos showed that many with their family members were roaming by the sea side while youngsters were seen playing in front of police personnel.

Police said many of them lived in the nearby areas. When asked, people said they were playing with friends since there was a power failure in the area. Some even said as they

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### More people, more vehicles on roads of Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

On the third day of lockdown yesterday, the number of people and vehicles increased in the streets of Rajshahi.

However, there was also heavy presence of law enforcers as well as army and BGB personnel.

Some 30 people were fined with Tk 17,600 for violating the lockdown rules.

Apart from a large number of city people coming out of homes for various reasons, many from rural areas also visited the city looking for work, said officials.

Authorities, however, said they came to the city avoiding the eyes of the law enforcers and check points set up at different points.

Meanwhile, mobile courts were seen

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### A quiet Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The roads of Rangpur and Dinajpur remained almost empty on the third day of the weeklong lockdown yesterday. In addition, most shops were also closed.

There was heavy presence of law enforcers, army and BGB personnel making sure that the lockdown is being enforced properly.

However, the alleys remained somewhat crowded. Vendors were seen occupying road corners and selling their products while people gathered beside tea stalls. Whenever they sensed presence of law enforcers, they quickly dispersed.

In Rangpur, army personnel were seen active on various roads. Divided in teams, they patrolled streets. They were also seen stopping people and inquiring about their reasons for stepping out of home amid the lockdown.

In Dinajpur, the army personnel were seen checking vehicles at Eidgah residential area since morning.

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### 32 people fined in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

On the third day of the ongoing lockdown in Khulna, 32 people were fined Tk 13,500 for roaming outside without any valid reason.

Mobile courts, under the direction of Khulna Deputy Commissioner Md. Moniruzzaman Talukder and supervision of Additional District Magistrate Md Yusuf Ali, conducted drives throughout the day and fined people for violating lockdown rules.

Yesterday, eight executive magistrates conducted drives in Khulna city area and nine upazilas. UNOs and assistant commissioners (land) conducted mobile courts in the upazilas.

Executive magistrate Ariful Islam said, "We requested people not to come out from their residences without any valid reason but many did not pay heed to that."

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### Waterways abuzz with people all over Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

The roads of Barishal hardly saw any vehicular movement yesterday due to the ongoing lockdown. However, the scenario was quite the opposite across different river ghats.

Trawlers full of passengers were seen setting sail amid the lockdown. Locals said the number of passengers increased in the last few days. According to locals, huge trawlers are operating on different rivers across ten upazilas of the district. Inside the city, trawlers were seen moving at Beltala and Steamer Ghat Point on the Kirtankhola river.

Most of these trawlers from Beltala Ghat were going to Charmanai Union Ghat, from where they sail to various unions in the eastern region, locals said.

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## 43 die in shipwreck on way to Italy from Libya

84 rescued in Mediterranean; Bangladeshis were among migrants, says Red Cross

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 43 migrants drowned in a shipwreck off Tunisia as they tried to cross the Mediterranean from Libya to Italy, while another 84 were rescued, the Tunisian Red Crescent told Reuters yesterday.

The boat had set off from Zuwara on Libya's northwest coast, carrying migrants from Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Bangladesh, the humanitarian organisation said.

However, it could not be known immediately how many Bangladeshis were rescued or whether Bangladeshis were among the drowned.

The incidents of Bangladeshi migrants heading for Europe ending up in the Mediterranean have become frequent in

recent months.

At least three such incidents of shipwreck were reported in international media since June 25.

According to the Bangladesh embassy in Tunisia, at least 568 Bangladeshi migrants were rescued off the Tunisian coast in the past three months.

In recent incidents, migrants were found adrift in the Mediterranean -- which is widely used by traffickers as a route for illegal migration from North African countries to reach European countries including Italy, Greece and Spain.

According to the UN, at least 760 people

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## 'Plan was to send recruits to Kashmir, Arakan to join AQIS'

Says CTTC after interrogating 3 members of Ansar Al Islam

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Their plan was to send people to Kashmir and Arakan (Rakhine state) in Myanmar to work for Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS).

For this, the dawah (invitation) wing of Ansar Al Islam was focusing on recruiting new members in Bangladesh.

The outfit members used to send financial support to Kashmir through hundi and cryptocurrency. Ahead of Eid, the outfit has already started collecting funds.

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit claimed to have got these findings after interrogating three Ansar Al Islam members, arrested from the capital's Rampura area on June 26.

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## 138 women, girls raped in June: Mahila Parishad

Total 329 suffered different forms of violence: report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 329 women and girls across the country suffered different forms of violence in June, says a report of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

Of the 138 rape incidents, 69 involved children; nine girls were gang-raped and one was murdered after rape, says the report, prepared based on news published in 13 national dailies.

The women's rights organisation sent its monthly report to the media yesterday.

The report also said 10 girls and two women faced rape attempts last month.

Nine girls and a woman were sexually assaulted, while five women and girls were sexually harassed in the same period. Of the 21 who were abducted, 15 were girls. One woman and a girl also faced abduction

attempts last month.

Besides, seven women and girls were trafficked.

At least 38 women and girls (6 girls) were murdered due to various reasons, while another five faced murder attempts.

Also, 14 women were tortured over dowry, and five of them were killed.

Seven women and girls were physically tortured, while 11, including two girls, took their own lives due to different forms of torture.

Also, 41 women and girls (nine girls) died mysteriously.

There were six incidents of child marriage in the country last month. Besides, three women and girls were victims of cybercrime.

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Geared up with their mask-selling neck rigs and backpacks, Rabbi (10), Hasan (10) and Nur Nahar (11) walk the streets leading to Chattogram Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) twice every day -- once in the morning and once in the afternoon -- when hundreds of workers enter and exit the industrial area. They said they sell disposable masks to transport workers and employees at the factories, racking up Tk 4,000-5,000 on a good day. They are among 10 to 12 kids who have been helping their families during the pandemic time, as their schools remain closed. The photos were taken on Thursday, the first day of the countrywide strict lockdown.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

