

## Dengue rings alarm

237 hospitalised in 24hrs;  
situation akin to 2019: DGHS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The dengue situation could turn alarming again and it will be possible to face the situation if necessary measures are taken immediately, said spokesperson of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Dr Md Nazmul Islam.

Dr Nazmul, director (disease control) of the DGHS said they have seen over the last few years that the dengue situation has become extremely alarming from time to time.

"We have seen the dengue epidemic in 2019, and in 2021 we are in a similar situation," said Nazmul.

His comment came at a time when the country has seen 1,025 dengue infected cases only in four days.

At least 237 people with dengue fever were admitted to hospitals in the country during 24 hours till 8am yesterday, of which only 16 are from outside Dhaka.

A total of 2,286 people were hospitalised with dengue in July, 272 in June and 43 in May, showing a sharp rise in cases.

A total of 3,683 patients have been hospitalised with dengue this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). Of the total infected, only 118 are from outside Dhaka.

Though most of the patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 1,058 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 54 outside the capital, DGHS data shows.

LEND ALL YOUR HANDS: DNCC MAYOR

Meanwhile, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayor Md Atiqul Islam yesterday urged one crore people of Dhaka extend their two crore hands to clean their homes and yards to control Aedes mosquito, the carrier of dengue and chikungunya.

Addressing an awareness programme in Bhatara area, the DNCC mayor said it is not the duty of mayors alone

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As dengue cases keep rising sharply in the capital, Dhaka North City Corporation's anti-dengue campaign is on full-swing to contain the threat. Mayor Atiqul Islam visited Bhatara area of the capital yesterday, and marked buildings where Aedes mosquito larvae were found. He urged citizens to all join hands in keeping their houses and surroundings clean.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Maj Gen (retd) Dr M Abdul Mohaiemen passes away

CITY DESK

Maj Gen (retd) Dr Mohammad Abdul Mohaiemen, a pioneering military



cardio-thoracic surgeon in East Pakistan and independent Bangladesh, passed away at Combined Military Hospital in the capital on Tuesday, of old-age related complications.

He was laid to rest at Banani Military Graveyard with guard of honor salute, says a press release.

Born in Bogura on December 5, 1936 to District Magistrate Maulvi Emdad Ali and Sufiya Khatun, he received his MBBS at Dacca Medical College (1958), and FRCS in Edinburgh (1969). As a surgeon, he served in the Army Medical Corps, Pakistan Army (1959-1971) and Army Medical Corps, Bangladesh Army (1973-1996). He also served on delegation to Okba Bin Naafe Military Hospital, Tripoli, Libya

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This road of the capital's Rampura portrays how authorities are finding it hard to control the movement of vehicles and pedestrians. With heavy traffic, questioning those who are outside becomes ever so difficult. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Dhaka struggles to enforce lockdown

STAR REPORT

Law enforcers scrambled to impose Covid-19 lockdown restrictions in Dhaka yesterday, as the capital witnessed some rush-hour traffic in the morning.

Although public transport vehicles stayed off the capital roads, police and armed forces personnel were seen flagging down several private cars and people they thought had stepped out for frivolous reasons on the 13th day of the countrywide strict lockdown, aimed at reducing the Covid-19 contagion risk, reports UNB.

Police imposed fines on commuters who failed to produce proper documents in support of their "emergency travel", while those with valid papers were allowed to go. Many without supporting documents bridled at such restrictions, resulting in heated exchange of words with cops.

Rapid Action Battalion and army personnel patrolling the streets of Dhaka,

alongside local police, set up check-posts in different areas of the city.

At some places, traffic congestion was seen between 8:30am and 11:30am.

Traffic inspector Akther Hossain, stationed near Uttara's Rajlaxmi Complex, said, "The pressure of private vehicles is higher than that of Tuesday, but we are only allowing those with valid reasons to travel."

"Cases are also being filed against violators. Mobile courts are slapping fines on lockdown violators," he said.

People's movement has significantly risen, as export-oriented industries have started operations, the inspector said.

"Ambulances and people going out for taking Covid jabs are being allowed to travel," Akther said.

The nationwide lockdown, first imposed for 14-days until August 5, has now been extended for another five days till August 10, amid a surge in the Delta variant of Covid-19 infections across the country.

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## Two associates of Piyasha arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the name of arranging parties, an organised group used to organise events for narcotics consumption at flats in different posh areas including Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara, Rapid Action Battalion said yesterday.

Participated by different models at these parties, they used to take "compromised" photos of their clients, mostly from rich families. They later extorted money from them by blackmailing.

The arrestees are Sharful Hasan alias Mishu Hasan and Masudul Hasan alias Jisan, associates of previously-arrested model and former TV presenter Faria Mahbub Piyasha during a drive at Bashundhara Residential Area on Tuesday night.

Earlier on August 1, detectives arrested Piyasha from her Baridhara residence.

"Fifteen to twenty persons used to take part in each party. In primary investigation, we found that the gang has at least 50 clients including some so-called models,"

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## People losing trust in govt due to ridiculous remarks by ministers: GM Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said people are getting confused and losing their trust in the government due to 'ridiculous' remarks by ministers.

In a statement, he also said ministers are making 'contradictory' remarks due to lack of coordination.

The Jatiya Party chief said Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque's remarks on taking punitive action against unvaccinated people aged 18 or above who go outside from August 11 is not only unreasonable, unrealistic and unacceptable, but also completely ridiculous.

GM Quader said the number of people

in the country who have so far been vaccinated with two doses of the vaccines is less than one crore.

According to a report of the Covid Taskforce, Bangladesh is one of the countries lagging behind in vaccination drive. "Bangladesh also lags far behind in Southeast Asia in this regard."

The Jatiya Party chief said when the entire world is making life normal through vaccination, it seems the government is taking imprudent decisions to avoid its failure to ensure vaccine jabs for people.

He said the minimum age limit for the vaccination is still 25 years.

"In that case, how can the garment

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MOUNTING PRESSURE OF COVID-19 PATIENTS

## SBMCH urges Barishal citizens to volunteer

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

The Barishal District Coronavirus Prevention Committee and Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) authorities have called upon Barishal citizens to volunteer at SBMCH to help with the hospital's Covid-19 efforts.

The assistance was sought at a press conference held at Barishal Circuit House Conference Centre yesterday.

In addition, speakers urged affluent people to step up with their resources, as the hospital plunges deeper into an oxygen cylinder and high-flow oxygen crisis.

Dr Saiful Islam, director of the hospital, told the press conference that though SBMCH serves as an important stop for Covid-19 treatment in the division, they did not get any separate allocation of human resources to run the Covid-19 unit. They are being forced to distribute the heavy duties among existing staff.

"We are now at a serious shortage of people,

equipment, and oxygen," he stated.

"We have 40 doctors at the unit, which is about one-fifth of the requirement for its 300 high-involvement beds. There are 80 nurses, which is only a quarter of what we need, and 45 volunteers, about one-sixth of the requirement."

Another result of this is the discipline breakdown the unit is facing, he said. "Some patients' attendants are forcibly taking oxygen cylinders from us and hogging them. This stockpiling is leading to others not getting cylinders at all," Dr Saiful said.

There are 600 cylinders, including 553 small cylinders. This should have been enough, he said, if the patients' relatives did not take more than one cylinder at a time.

The attendants, mostly relatives of the patients, are causing more disruption in the unit. "Sometimes, they're occupying ICUs. They also threaten us over minuscule demands, to the point where we've even had to call police."

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## 'Dorji Monir' placed on four-day remand

Helena Jahangir's two aides on 3-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Monir Khan alias Dorji Monir, founder president of so-called "Bangladesh Jananetri Sheikh Hasina Parishad", on a four-day remand in a case filed with Kamrangirchar Police Station under the Digital Security Act.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Dhiman Chandra Mondol passed the order after DB Inspector Md Saiful Islam, the investigation officer, produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer, court sources said.

In the remand prayer, the IO said Monir used photoshop to fabricate pictures with important people of the government, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and posted those on Facebook.

Moreover, he demanded Tk 2 lakh as extortion from one Ismail Hossain for getting a good post at his party. So, he

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## DHAKA-HK-DHAKA Biman to run special flight on August 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will operate a special flight on Dhaka-Hong Kong-Dhaka route on August 9.

The national flag carrier arranged the chartered flight following requests by Bangladeshi students who got admitted or are studying at different universities in Hong Kong. Md Salahuddin, general manager (marketing and sales) of Biman, told The Daily Star.

"We have completed all necessary formalities and got permission from all respective authorities of Bangladesh and Hong Kong to operate the special flight," Salahuddin said.

Around 90 passengers, mostly students, are likely to fly to Hong Kong in that flight, scheduled to depart from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 2:15pm, said the Biman top official.

Sources in Biman said in the return flight to

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With one foot on the ladder and the other resting precariously on wires, an electrician along with his workmates is busy working on a transformer. One misstep at any point of the work may lead to a serious accident. This photo was taken yesterday from the capital's Tejjanga.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## HC orders release of minors imprisoned over early marriage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two minors, who were recently sentenced to one month's imprisonment by a mobile court in Netrakona for getting married before legal age, were released from custody yesterday, before the High Court also issued a verbal order for doing so.

Supreme Court spokesperson Mohammad Saifur Rahman informed The Daily Star of this development yesterday afternoon.

"I conveyed the High Court order to the deputy commissioner of Netrakona. The DC told me they had been released before the order was issued," he said.

The releases took place after the additional district magistrate (the appellate authority to the mobile court) scrapped the mobile court verdict after holding hearing on an appeal.

However, the SC spokesperson could not confirm who submitted the appeal challenging the verdict.

Earlier in the day, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim verbally ordered the authorities concerned to immediately release the two minors, who were sentenced to imprisonment by the mobile court under the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 in Atpara upazila.

The court also asked SC spokesperson Saifur Rahman to convey the release order to the authorities concerned.

The HC bench delivered the order following a letter sent by SC lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir seeking its directive on the authorities to immediately release the detained minors.

Justice Enayetur Rahim also fixed Thursday (today) for passing the necessary directives on the issue, court sources said.

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