

ANTI-AEDES DRIVE

DNCC announces monetary incentive to clean up houses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayor Md Atiqul Islam yesterday announced monetary rewards for cleaning coconut shells, unused toilet fittings, plastic bags and discarded tyres.

"We will give Tk 50 for unused commode and discarded tyres and will give Tk 5 for each coconut shell, pots and chips packets. Anyone can collect money by submitting it to the councillor office or zonal offices," said the DNCC mayor at a press conference at Nagar Bhaban at Gulshan.

Urging people to come forward to clean their house at least for 10 minutes every Saturday, the mayor said cleaning activities will have to be sped up to control Aedes mosquitoes and everyone will have to take part in cleaning their own houses.

He said everyone will have to be careful so that water cannot remain stagnant for more than three days at different pots, flower tubs, rooftops, or any other containers.

The mayor said they will also award whoever will give the highest number of information about Aedes mosquito larvae using their Sobar Dhaka app.

He said they have ensured facilities of dengue virus test free of cost at their 54 health centres in 54 wards.

Meanwhile, mobile courts of two city corporations yesterday fined owners of different under-construction buildings, houses and other establishments Tk 6 lakh.

Twelve mobile courts of DNCC fined Tk 2.20 lakh against the owners of different establishments, while mobile courts of Dhaka South City Corporation slapped fines of Tk 4.29 lakh to a hospital and diagnostic centre, and under construction buildings after finding mosquito larvae there.



A motorbiker attempts to cross over from one side of Chittagong Road illegally through a broken part of the road divider, while his pillion gets off the bike and helps him. On a wide road where vehicles often ply at high speed, such attempts can be very dangerous. The photo was taken near Matuail yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

204 dengue patients hospitalised in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 204 people with dengue fever were admitted to different hospitals of the country in 24 hours till 8am yesterday.

Only 10 of them are from outside Dhaka, said Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With them, a total of 4,319 patients have been hospitalised with dengue this year, with 157 from outside the capital.

Among 4,319 infected, 1,661 were diagnosed during the current month till yesterday morning, which indicates the fast-rising trend of the disease.

At least 2,286 people were hospitalised across the country in July, while 272 were hospitalised in June and 43 in May.

Although most of the patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 997 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka and 39 outside the capital, the DGHS data shows.



Although cars and CNG autorickshaws plied the streets of the capital rather freely yesterday, the lack of public transport meant long-haul commuters had to find alternative modes like pickup vans to get to their destinations. The photo was taken from Shonir Akhra area.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

EXTENDED LOCKDOWN

Vehicles aplenty on Dhaka streets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second day of the latest phase of ongoing nationwide lockdown yesterday saw significant number of vehicles plying on the capital's different streets.

Despite it being a weekend, cars were seen waiting at traffic signals in the city's different parts including at Bijoy Sarani, Karwan Bazar, and Moghbazar as vehicular movement increased yesterday, compared to the previous day.

Rickshaws, CNG-run auto-rickshaws, motorcycles and private cars were seen on the roads, plying of public transports remained closed.

Besides, city dwellers were seen coming out of their residences without much reservation.

A rush of vehicles of different vehicles including private cars, CNG-run auto-rickshaws and motorcycles was seen at Mirpur-10 intersection around 11:30am.

At the intersection, on-duty traffic sergeant Rafiqul Islam also said there was pressure of vehicular movements in the intersection.

Many people came out of home as garment factories and other businesses kept open their activities, he said.

The traffic sergeant said they had questioned many commuters to know reasons behind their coming out of home.

Rafiqul said they filed at least four cases for violating rules and realised monetary fine of Tk 5,000 from those who came out of home unnecessarily as of noon.

Rickshaws were seen carrying passengers and plying on several of the main roads including in Nayapaltn, Shantinagar, Gulistan and Mahakhali areas.

Roadside shops inside different alleys were also seen open.

Meanwhile, a fair number of people were found enjoying the afternoon out in the open in Suhrawardy Udyan. Friends in groups, couples and cyclists were seen roaming around, while hawkers sold peanuts, tea and fried snacks.

The latest shutdown, first imposed for 14-days until August 5, has now been extended till August 10 across the country.

'Even crematoriums are being grabbed'

Sultana Kamal tells webinar on indigenous issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted rights activist Sultana Kamal yesterday at a webinar said indigenous people are not only losing their homesteads, gardens, trees, forestlands and lakes, but their crematoriums are also being grabbed by the state or people patronised by the state.

"And there is no solution to this grabbing from the state's side, while those who are losing land are being evicted and forced to migrate elsewhere," she said.

The webinar titled "Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in Sustainable Development and Realization of Rights: Responsibility of State and Citizens", was jointly organised by Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and Bangladesh Indigenous People Forum, in

collaboration with The Daily Star.

The webinar was organised to mark International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (August 9), with the theme "Leaving No One Behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract".

Barrister Raja Devasish Roy -- Chakma circle chief, Chattogram Hill Tracts -- presented the keynote in the webinar. He said although Bangladesh has ratified International Labour Organization Convention 107 in 1972, and signed the historical Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord (CHT Accord) in 1997, the scenario of deprivation and distress of indigenous people is largely seen even today.

They have been facing various political, social, and economic challenges, he said.

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BANGAMATA AWARD

Five nominated for special contribution



STAR REPORT

Five women have been nominated for the newly introduced "Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Award" for their outstanding contributions in different sectors.

They are freedom fighter from Brahmanbaria Prof Momtaz Begum (posthumous) in Independence and Liberation War category; Tangail's Joya Pati (posthumous)

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PROTESTING DRUG PEDDLING

Aimed at teacher, gunshot by JU BCL leader hits own associate

Accused on the run; injured hospitalised in police custody

AKILAKUR RAHMAN AKASH and MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

A Chhatra League leader of Jahangirnagar University allegedly fired several rounds of bullets targeting a college teacher, as he protested his peddling drugs in the area. Meanwhile, the teacher was able to save himself and one of the bullets hit an associate of that BCL leader.

The incident took place around 6:30pm on Thursday near the residence of Dr Monsur Ali, the college teacher. Dr Ali filed a case with Ashulia Police Station on Friday night over the incident against seven persons.

He is a lecturer at JU School and College in Pandhoa Purbha Para area, right behind JU campus, said police and local sources.

The accused BCL leader is Shamim Osman Gani Mollah, a student of history department at JU and organising secretary of the university unit of BCL.

The injured is his associate Abul Hossen, who is now undergoing treatment at a hospital under police custody, said law enforcers.

According to locals and police, a gang, led by Shamim and one Hassan (a JU student), has been involved in peddling drugs in the area for a while. Locals often protested it but to no avail, they said.

On Thursday evening, Shamim, Hassan and their five associates gathered near Dr Ali's house and parked their four motorbikes there. When he asked them to move those, they allegedly misbehaved with him.

As he protested, Shamim fired three rounds of bullets at him and one of the bullets hit his associate Abul Hossain's right hand, Dr Ali told The Daily Star.

"I was lucky that it [the bullet] did not hit me,"

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Four teen gang members held in capital: Rab

UNB, Dhaka

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel yesterday arrested four members of a teen gang from the capital's Mohammadpur area.

Rab recovered sharp weapons from their possession. along with sharp weapons, said a press release.

Tipped off, a team of Rab-2 conducted a drive at Basila Tin Rastar Mor area around 1:15pm and arrested the four along with four knives and a phone.

According to the investigation of Rab, the group members were involved in mugging, extortion and other crimes in the area.

Rab sources said the arrestees have many injury marks on their bodies which they sustained during clashes with other teen gangs.

Process is underway to take legal action against them, said the release.

INDIAN PM'S GIFT 30 ambulances reach Benapole

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A total of 30 ambulances from India, gifted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have arrived in Bangladesh yesterday.

The ambulances are being transported to Dhaka from Benapole, Dr Neyamul Islam, additional commissioner at Benapole Customs Check Post, told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Earlier on Thursday, the ambulances had arrived at Petrapole.

The vehicles, which provide life support facilities, are part of 109 ambulances being gifted to Bangladesh as per Narendra Modi's announcement made during his visit to Bangladesh in March this year.

The gift is meant to further enhance healthcare, especially in the shared effort to contain Covid-19 pandemic in Bangladesh,

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Although the government has extended the current lockdown till August 10, the increasing number of people getting out of the houses have rendered it somewhat ineffective. Small traders such as roadside hawkers -- who have been some of the worst-hit due to the economic shutdown -- are venturing out to resume their businesses. The photo was taken from Gulistan area in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Govt shut down schools to save students' lives

Quader tells discussion

Bss, Dhaka

Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said in order to save the lives of students, the government has shut down the educational institutions amid the ongoing pandemic.

"If the lives of children are at risk, what will we do with education? That's why the government took the decision to save lives," he said.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, made the remark at a discussion marking the National Mourning Day at IDEB in Dhaka. He attended the event virtually.

Institute of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh organised the programme -- "What to do to implement Bangabandhu's Philosophy on Vocational and Technical Education" -- and to distribute relief among the poor.

Quader also criticised BNP for saying that the government is allegedly destroying the country's education system through conspiracy. "BNP even smelt conspiracy with vaccines earlier. Their habit is to see conspiracy in everything," Quader said.

Their [BNP] political programme is only to spread rumour and falsehood against the incumbent democratic government, he added. Quader also urged BNP to specify the irregularities without throwing stones in the dark.

At the meeting, Quader also said the plotters, who wanted to erase the name of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from history, themselves are being erased from history at present.

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