

No let-up in dengue cases

224 more admitted to hospital in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More and more dengue patients are requiring hospitalisation as the number of dengue cases continues to rise across the country.

At least 224 people with dengue fever were admitted to hospitals in the country in 24 hours ending at 8am yesterday. Thirteen of them were from outside Dhaka. This took the total number of dengue patients to 4,543, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of the infected, only 170 were from outside Dhaka. Around 1,885 of the dengue patients were diagnosed during the current month, which indicates the fast-rising trend of the disease.

As the capital's public hospitals are overwhelmed with Covid patients, those with dengue were finding it hard to get admission there.

The growing number of dengue cases since last month has been an additional pressure for the hospitals.

Though most of the patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 946 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 46 outside the capital, the DGHS data shows.

DGHS spokesperson Dr Md Nazmul Islam said the dengue situation could turn alarming again, but it would be possible to face the situation if necessary measures are taken immediately.

At least 2,286 people were hospitalised in different hospitals across the country in July, which was 272 in June. Forty-three were infected in May.

Meanwhile, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayor Md Atiqul Islam yesterday said all officials, employees and councillors will remain active until Aedes mosquitoes -- carrier of dengue and Chikungunya -- are eradicated.

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Two members of the transgender community share some hand sanitiser as they wait to receive government assistance during the lockdown. Three hundred people from the community gathered at the port city's Deputy Commissioner's office to collect the packages yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

3 held for hacking Shwapno's system

CTTC says arrestees swindled Tk 18 lakh by forging e-vouchers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A hacker ring has swindled a huge sum of money by hacking into several local and international websites including a leading Bangladesh airline, freelancer.com and super shop Shwapno.

Of these sites, the hackers have swindled around Tk 18 lakh through forging digital voucher of Shwapno. They sold those to different e-commerce users at 25 percent discount.

The authorities of the super shop noticed the fraud last month and sought support from the cyber police unit.

On Saturday, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit arrested three members of the ring. The arrestees are Nasimul Islam, Rehanur Hasan Rashed and Raisul Islam.

Md Asaduzzaman, chief of CTTC unit, disclosed the above information at a press briefing yesterday at DMP media centre in Dhaka. The three were arrested from Dhaka, Naogaon and Gaibandha.

CTTC also seized six mobile phones, two laptops and a CPU, and large amount of goods purchased through Shwapno

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Bangabandhu's source of strength

91st birth anniversary of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatun Nesa Mujib observed across country, abroad



Central leaders of Awami League place wreaths at the grave of Bangamata at Banani graveyard yesterday.

STAR REPORT

The 91st birth anniversary of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatun Nesa Mujib, wife of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was observed yesterday in a befitting manner across the country and Bangladesh's embassies across the globe.

This year, the theme of the day was "Bangamata: A fearless companion in the crisis and struggle (Bangamata Shongkote Shongrame Nirvik Sohajatri)."

Born on August 8, 1930 at Tungipara village in Gopalganj, she was killed brutally by the assassins of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975.

On the occasion, ruling Awami League held several programmes in compliance with health rules, including paying tributes to Bangamata and recitation of holy Quran and holding doa and milad-mahfil at the grave of Sheikh Fazilatun Nesa Mujib at Banani graveyard in the capital.

Apart from government programmes, various political and social organisations including Awami

League's associate bodies organised various programmes including discussions, meetings and milad-mahfils on the day.

Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar and other electronic media broadcast special programmes to mark the day.

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said Sheikh Fazilatun Nesa Mujib was not only wife of Bangabandhu, but also his co-fighter his entire life.

He made the comments while talking to journalists after paying homage to Bangamata by placing wreaths on her grave at Banani graveyard.

On behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Quader first paid homage to Bangamata by placing a wreath on her grave.

Later, the AL general secretary along with party's central leaders placed another wreath on her grave.

"From behind the scene, Bangamata had always given inspiration, strength and courage to Bangabandhu in struggles as well as

every crisis moment," Quader said.

The minister said Sheikh Fazilatun Nesa Mujib is one of the greatest Bangalee women in the 20th century.

In absence of Bangabandhu, Bangamata had contributed extensively to the nation's struggle for freedom from behind the scene, he said.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday said Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatun Nesa Mujib, a great woman, played a unique role in establishing the rights of the Bengali nation.

"She was the shadow companion of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman during the country's liberation struggles. Bangamata is a bright example of the indomitable courage and political wisdom of a woman," she said.

The Speaker made the remarks while addressing a discussion and sewing machine-distribution ceremony virtually at Pirgonj Upazila Auditorium in Rangpur marking the 91st birth anniversary of Bangamata,

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A little acting to save a life!

Firefighters pull off unique rescue of teen from cornice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the onlookers watching from down below, it was a horrific few hours as they saw a person standing at the very corner of a fourth floor cornice.

It seemed like he was about to jump off, but then he also wore a smile, and was smoking a cigarette as if nothing was wrong.

Amid such a situation, it took fire service personnel and a little bit of acting to get the 18-year-old to safety. The incident took place on Thursday.

When firefighters rushed to the building in Dhaka's Bhashantek around 7:15am, they realised it would be difficult to coax him to safety, so they made a plan to have one of their personnel act as a distraction.

Firefighter Mizanur Rahman started acting flamboyantly to get the boy's attention.

Wearing safety gear, he started dancing and shouting "nouka" (boat), "Brazil", and more popular chants to keep him busy. All the while, Mizanur kept inching closer to the teenager.

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Life as usual in Dhaka as lockdown drags on

STAR REPORT

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

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

Besides, city dwellers were seen coming out of their residences without much reservation yesterday, the first day after the weekend.

Some head out for vaccination as a special mass inoculation programme started in the country on Saturday, reports UNB.

Law enforcers were seen occasionally checking vehicles on certain roads. The capital witnessed traffic congestion in some major points while more and more shops were seen open.

Traffic Inspector Asaduzzaman (Mohakhali) said, "The number of vehicles is higher than the previous days and we're handling traffic manually in Mohakhali and Amtola areas."

Visiting different parts of the capital, including Shahbagh, Uttara, Mohakhali, Mirpur, Kalabagan, Bijoy Sarani, Badda, Farmgate, Shyamoli, Karwan Bazar and Bangla Motor, Malibagh, Mouchak, Rampura, Badda, Notun Bazar and Gulshan, correspondents of the newspaper saw Dhaka almost returning to normal, with increased number of vehicles and people.

"I wonder what will happen from Wednesday when public transport will be allowed to operate," said Arif Hossain, a resident of Malibagh.

Meanwhile, many pedestrians were seen without masks while many wore theirs on their chin.

"I took my mask off as I was wearing it for a long time," said Mohammad Anis, a resident of Sutrapur.

Like previous days, many were seen returning to the capital through the entry points of the city, including Abdullahpur, Babu Bazar bridge, Postogola bridge and Gabtoli, on foot.

The DMP mobile courts also slapped fines and detained people who failed to show valid reasons for going out.

SC commutes death penalty of 2 convicts

Another acquitted from charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday commuted death penalty of a convict to life imprisonment and acquitted another from charges in two separate cases for killing their wives -- in Bogura and Bagerhat.

The Appellate Division of the SC also commuted another convicted killer Al Amin's death sentence to life imprisonment in a case filed for abducting and killing a child in Cumilla.

Convicts Md Golam Rabbani (43) from Bogura and Al Amin (33) from Cumilla, whose death sentences were commuted, will now be shifted to normal cells from condemn cells in jails.

Acquitted Md Shaheb Alik Fakir (44), hailing from Bagerhat, will be released from prison following the apex court verdict.

A five-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, delivered

the verdicts after hearing three separate appeals filed by Golam Rabbani, Al Amin and Shaheb Alik through jail authorities, challenging High Court judgments that confirmed their death sentences.

SM Aminul Islam Sanu, a state defense lawyer for Rabbani and Alik, told The Daily Star that Rabbani was arrested on January 25 2008 in the case filed with Bogura's Kahlalu Police Station for killing his wife Shirina Khatun (30) by poisoning her through injection.

The HC on December 6, 2015 confirmed the death penalty handed by a Bogura court on July 21, 2010 to Rabbani.

The SC yesterday commuted Rabbani's death sentence to life imprisonment considering the arguments that he has two sons and had no intention to kill his wife, Aminul said.

He further said the apex court acquitted Alik from the case filed with Mollarhat

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ASSAULTING COP Jubo League leader gets bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sunamganj court yesterday granted bail to Jubo League leader Arindam Chowdhury Apu in a case filed for assaulting a police officer.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Court's judge Shyam Kanti Singha passed the order after hearing his bail plea, said Pankaj Kumar Talukdar, lawyer of the accused.

Earlier on July 15, the same court granted Arindam bail in a drug case filed along with the assault case.

Arindam, also former convener of Chhatra League's Shalla upazila unit, was arrested on July 14 on charges of assaulting Sub-Inspector Shah Ali of Shalla Police Station.

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Mass deception in the name of mass vaccination: Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

The government has politicised the mass vaccination programme by deceiving people, alleged BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

"Our standing committee thinks the government has indulged in mass deception in the name of mass vaccination, without collecting enough vaccine doses to begin with. The mass vaccination campaign has become a drive to spread mass infection due to mismanagement and politicisation," he said.

"We strongly condemn and protest the involvement of ruling party workers in the vaccination programme," he added.

Fakhrul came up with the remarks while unveiling the decisions of a virtual meeting of the BNP standing committee on Saturday, at a press conference at the party chairperson's Gulshan office.

He said BNP policymakers urged the government to take effective measures to vaccinate people.

He said the government had first announced to provide one crore doses of vaccines in the first week of the mass inoculation, but later it changed the decision and planned to inoculate 35 lakh people in six days.

"The government's every step regarding the vaccination has manifested how it has failed in ensuring vaccines for the country's people," he alleged.

The BNP leader again called upon the government to present a specific roadmap on vaccine collection and distribution.

On Saturday, the government kicked off another phase of its mass

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A chicken trader sets up shop right next to the rail line near the capital's Malibagh. Although all establishments along the rail line were demolished as they were encroaching upon railway space, they have returned presumably due to the lack of monitoring. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Barrister Sumon relieved from Jubo League central body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Sumon, a Supreme Court lawyer and a public figure popular for his social media appearances, was expelled from Jubo League central committee on Saturday.

He has been serving as legal affairs secretary of Jubo League since November last year.

Mostafizur Rahman Masud, office secretary of the youth wing of Awami League, said Sumon was expelled from the central committee but not from the organisation, said UNB.

However, Masud did not mention the reason behind such a move.

Sources said he has been relieved from the committee on charges of being involved in anti-organisational activities.

Earlier on Friday, Sumon on Facebook live sharply criticised Shariatpur's Palang Model Police Station OC Akhter Hossain for chanting political slogans while participating in an AL programme and

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