

No let-up in dengue deaths

2 die, 270 hospitalised in a day

HEMUL ALAM and SUMON ALI

Leaving a 40-day-old baby behind, Tabassum Shahirin died of dengue yesterday morning while undergoing treatment at Enam Medical College Hospital.

Tabassum was a former student of Jahangirnagar University's international relations department.

Her husband Miftahul Islam has also been hospitalised with dengue.

"Tabassum was admitted to the hospital in critical condition on Wednesday night around 8pm. After her condition deteriorated, she was shifted to the intensive care unit (ICU), where she passed away at 7:25am yesterday morning," the hospital's duty manager Babul Hossain told The Daily Star.

According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), one more dengue patient died, while 270 more were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday.

With the new cases, the number of dengue patients this year rose to 7,251, according to DGHS. Of the total infected, only 416 are from outside Dhaka.

Meanwhile, 31 people have died of dengue in the country this year -- the fifth-highest total deaths since 2000, when the country first experienced dengue cases. At the time, 93 people died of the virus.

Experts said if the city corporations do not take effective measures to kill adult mosquitoes immediately, the situation will

YEAR-WISE DENGUE CASES AND DEATHS IN BANGLADESH (2011 TO 2019) UPDATED ON 31.12.2019

YEAR	CASE	DEATH
2011	1,359	6
2012	671	1
2013	1,749	2
2014	375	0
2015	3,162	6
2016	6,060	14
2017	2,769	8
2018	10,148	26
2019	1,01,354	156
2020	1,405	7

DATA SOURCE: CONTROL ROOM, DGHS

go out of control.

Addresses of dengue patients should be collected from hospitals, and those areas should be fogged intensively to kill adult mosquitoes, they added.

"It would be possible to avoid more deaths, if both city corporations take our suggestions and conduct their anti-mosquito drive accordingly," said Monzur Chowdhury, entomologist and former president of Zoological Society of Bangladesh.

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At Shyamoli's DNCC Wonderland Park, this youngling was all smiles when she finally managed to mount her carousel horse after a couple of attempts, with some help from her brother, who took another horse for himself. In fact, not just them, every kid that went to visit amusement parks across the country yesterday couldn't get enough of their rides. Closed for a prolonged period due to the lockdown, the parks reopened following a recently issued government instruction.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Indiscriminate parking on the road is a common scene in Dhaka. But when vehicles are parked right in front of a "No Parking" sign, on one of the busiest avenues around Motijheel's Shapla Chattar, it is emblematic of an overall attitude towards illegal parking, and also points to the negligence of law enforcement agencies in this regard. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Army chief on official visit to Turkey

STAR REPORT

Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiqul Islam left Dhaka on Wednesday for Turkey on an eight-day official visit.

The army chief, who is leading an eight-member delegation, will pay courtesy call on the Turkish defence minister, assistant defence minister, president of the Turkish defence industries, Chief of General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces and other senior officials during his visit.

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Bangladesh-India flights in limbo

Airlines ready; no response from India yet, says CAAB

RASHIDUL HASAN

Although the foreign minister recently said flights with India will resume today, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, US-Bangla and Novoair said they are yet to get any direction from Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) in this regard.

CAAB on the other hand said they are yet to get any formal reply from India about resuming flights.

Amid this situation, several hundred Bangladeshis, most of whom went to India for medical purposes, remained in

uncertainty about returning to the country by air. Many Bangladeshis waiting for a long time to go to India for treatment are also in limbo.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen on Tuesday said operation of flights between Bangladesh and India will resume today.

He said India had agreed to resume on Bangladesh's request, considering demands of facilitating movement of passengers and goods.

CAAB on August 4 sent a letter to India's

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'They kept asking for more money'

A trafficked worker shares ordeal; Rab arrests 4 traffickers in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They were supposed to go to Fiji to work as agricultural labourers. But after being trafficked to India, and they ended up spending months in seedy hotels.

A Rab-3 unit yesterday arrested a manpower agency who had left dozens of aspiring migrant workers stranded in Delhi, Mumbai, and Nepal for months.

Md Yasin Mollah, a small trader from Madhabdi in Narsingdi had spent as much as Tk 4,50,000 for the elusive agricultural job in Fiji. But instead, he landed in a hotel in India for three months. And after his visa expired, he was forced to cross back to Bangladesh illegally.

The primary school graduate cannot even locate Fiji in a map, and the traffickers took advantage of exactly that.

The four arrested traffickers are Md Alamgir, Md Mamunur Rashid, Md Mizanur Rahman Mizan, and Md Abdul Kuddus. They were all arrested from Bashundhara

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Address challenges of climate migration

Speakers urge govt to highlight the issue in dev agenda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government needs to address the challenges of climate-induced migration and forced displacement more prominently in its development agendas, said speakers at an online consultation yesterday.

The government needs to support people who have been migrated and forcibly displaced due to natural calamities by ensuring their livelihood and job opportunities, they said.

Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development (BPCMD) and WARBE Development Foundation organised the multi-stakeholder consultation on "Understanding the Climate-Induced Migration, IDPs

(internally displaced persons) and Migration Development Issues in the 8th Five-Year Plan".

Supported by British Council's "Prokas" project and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the event was attended by parliamentarians, government officials,

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide people with training
- Take scientific action plan
- Undertake 'land reclamation' initiative
- Formulate 'river erosion policy'



Journalist Zahiduzzaman passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zahiduzzaman Faruk, a senior journalist and editor of the Dainik Orthoniti, died of cancer at his residence yesterday. He was 72.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter, numerous relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Zahiduzzaman was a managing committee member of Jatiya Press Club, and member of Dhaka Reporters Unity and Economic Reporters Forum.

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Though rickshaws were on the street during the lockdown, there weren't as many commuters to ride them. With income heavily squeezed, rickshaw-puller Md Wahid doesn't miss out on an opportunity to make a few extra bucks. Every now and then, he'll get an order to wash and clean large carpets used in households and offices. When the pay is around Tk 2,000 for two days' work, Wahid and his two assistants don't hesitate to get down and dirty. This photo was taken from Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

MINI BYTES



Twitter launches new tools to report covid misinformation

ZARIF FAIZ

Twitter announced on Tuesday that it will begin testing a new reporting feature that will allow users to flag tweets that contain potential misinformation, reports The Verge.

Users will be able to report misinformation in the same way that they can report harassment or other harmful content, starting today, via the dropdown menu at the top right of every tweet.

Users will be asked to choose whether the false statement is political, health-related, or belongs to another category.

According to The Verge report, more specific forms of misinformation, such as election-related content, are included in the politics category. Users will be able to flag Covid-19-specific misinformation under the health category.

Users will not receive any updates from the company on what happens to misleading tweets they report for the time being, though this may change in the future.

The new feature will be available to most users in the United States, Australia, and South Korea on Tuesday. Twitter stated that it plans to run this experiment for a few months before expanding it to other markets.

Twitter describes the test as an "experiment," not a fully functional feature. According to a report in

TechCrunch, Twitter will monitor how users interact with the new misinformation reporting tool to see if it can be a useful tool for identifying potentially harmful misleading tweets.

Previously in 2019, the platform added the option to report false election-related tweets to help protect elections in Europe and India.

As the platform continues to test the feature, Twitter stated that not every report will be reviewed. However, the information gathered during the test will aid the company in determining how to expand the feature in the coming weeks. The test could also be used to detect tweets that contain false information and have the potential to go viral.

While the option to identify tweets as misleading is a new feature, the new option will feed reported tweets into Twitter's current enforcement mechanism, which employs a mix of human and algorithmic moderation to enforce Twitter's known policies surrounding health and political misinformation.

This procedure will also prioritise reported tweets for review. Tweets from users with large followings or tweets with unusually high levels of engagement, as well as tweets about elections and Covid-19--Twitter's two areas of focus when it comes to policing misinformation, will be prioritised for review.

According to TechCrunch, the new test is Twitter's newest attempt to rely more on its own community to detect misinformation.