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DENGUE MENACE

Take steps to stop spread outside Dhaka

Experts urge the government

HELEMI ALAM

Though the spread of dengue outside Dhaka started comparatively late, the growing number of cases shows that the situation may soon take a turn for the worse if necessary measures are not taken immediately to curb further spread, said experts and entomologists.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, 14,831 dengue cases were reported around the country starting from January till 8:00am yesterday. 1,601 of those were outside Dhaka and 13,230 were in Dhaka city.

In 2019, the total number of cases was 1,01,354, of which 49,544 were outside Dhaka -- the highest since 2000, according to DGHS data.

Monzur A Chowdhury, entomologist and former president of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh, said the rate of dengue outside Dhaka will continue to rise this year if proper steps are not taken. The dengue infection started in the capital earlier than it did outside Dhaka, for which it is likely to keep increasing there (outside the capital) till



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Container trucks parked illegally on Atish Dipankar Road to unload goods at the Kamalapur Inland Container Depot, making it difficult for other vehicles to pass, resulting in a gridlock. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

POWER RATIONING

CNG stations to stay shut 6-10pm from September 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to keep CNG filling stations closed from 6:00pm to 10:00pm -- the peak hours of electricity supply -- every day for power rationing.

The decision will be applicable from September 19, Mir Mohammad Aslam Uddin, public relations officer of the power, energy and mineral resources ministry told The Daily Star last night.

"The decision was taken to ensure uninterrupted gas supply to power plants," he said.

It could not be known exactly how long the rationing would continue. However, an official said it could be for three months or until further notice.

Earlier, the ministry had decided to apply decision from September 15 but then called for a meeting with the authorities concerned on Tuesday and changed the date.

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About two-thirds industrial loan now gone bad

Says finance minister in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About two-thirds of the industrial loan has been turned default as of March, said Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal yesterday.

Of the total industrial loans of Tk 90,966 crore, Tk 57,830 crore has gone sour, he told the parliament in response to a query from ruling party lawmaker M Abdul Latif.

As of March, total default loans stood at Tk 95,085 crore, which is 8.07 per cent of the total outstanding loans, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

Kamal acknowledged that the amount of classified loans increased slightly in the first quarter of the year.

According to the Bank Company Act, no bank or financial institution has the opportunity to provide loans in favour of a bad client or defaulting borrower.

Contacted, Mahbubul Alam, president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the impact of the pandemic might be the reason behind the increase in default loans in the industrial sector as the businesspeople might not

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ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Pakistan army using FAO boats for repression

SEPTEMBER 16, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

FAO COMPLAINED AGAINST PAKISTAN

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) accused Pakistan of diverting boats and vehicles intended for carrying relief materials for military use. In a formal note to the UN Secretary General U Thant, the FAO brought this charge against Pakistan. The UN secretary general in his concern about the matter asked the Pakistani representative in the UN for clarification.

DHAR HOLDS TALKS WITH BANGLADESH MINISTERS

DP Dhar, chairman, foreign policy planning cell of the Indian external affairs ministry, today held a long talk with Bangladesh ministers. The list of delegates to be sent to New York to represent Bangladesh at the United Nations General Assembly session was drawn up. Besides the Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed, the names of Mahbub Alam, Muzaffar Ahmed Choudhury and MA Fateh had also been suggested.

ON THE WAR FRONT

In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini today raided Pakistan troops in Khanpur area and killed two enemy soldiers. They destroyed seven enemy bunkers and the building where the Pakistani troops camped. Another Mukti Bahini group ambushed Pakistani troops near Dimapur and killed two soldiers. They also disrupted telecommunications and demolished a road bridge in the same area.

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PCR LABS AT HSIA 7 facilities to test outbound passengers for Covid

STAR REPORT

The government yesterday gave permission to seven healthcare facilities to set up RT-PCR laboratories at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to run Covid-19 tests on outbound passengers.

The facilities will be given three to six days to set up the labs, said a letter issued by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

The seven firms chosen by the Directorate General of Health Services are: Stenz Healthcare (BD) Limited; CSBF Health Centre; AMZ Hospital Limited; Anwar Khan Modern Medical College Hospital; Zainul Haque Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital (Pvt) Ltd; Gulshan Clinic Limited; and DMFR

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Scientists aiming to resurrect woolly mammoth



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have hatched a plan to bring woolly mammoths back to the Arctic -- ten thousand years after they became extinct.

Renowned Harvard geneticist George Church and tech entrepreneur Ben Lamm have set up Colossal, a new bioscience and genetics company which intends to bring several extinct species back to life.

Backed by £11m in initial funding, their first mission is to create a hybridised elephant resembling the prehistoric giant that would thrive in the cold Arctic climate.

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Constable's wife was raped before being killed

Say police; 4 accused land in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A police constable's wife was raped before being killed at her Gazipur home on the night of September 10.

This was revealed by the Manikganj superintendent of police, Mohammad Golam Azad Khan, at a press conference at his office yesterday afternoon.

The SP said they solved the mystery of the murder,

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 16

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:35	12:45	4:30	6:09	7:45
JAMAAT	5:10	1:15	4:45	6:12

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Two held for harassing woman, posting clip

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday arrested two men in connection with sexually harassing a 50-year-old woman in Sylhet.

The victim, of a remote village in Sylhet's Kanaighat upazila, was sexually harassed by four abusers on August 29. They also filmed the incident.

They later demanded money from her two expatriate sons. As the sons failed to pay the money, they made the videos viral, said police.

Police on Monday night traced the woman, identified the abusers and recorded a case filed by the victim with Kanaighat Police Station.

The accused are: Md Abdullah, 38, Abdullah, 27, Jabbar, 22, and Saidullah, 27. They are from the same village of the victim.

Police held Md Abdullah, and Saidullah early yesterday and the

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A tree, almost half a century old, is being cut down to make room for new administrative and academic buildings on the Rajshahi University campus. The authorities have already felled almost 50 trees, most of which are very old. The photo was taken yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

EVACUATED FROM KABUL

6 Bangladeshis back home from Spain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six Bangladeshis who were recently evacuated from Afghanistan and flown to Spain were repatriated from the European country yesterday.

The names and identities of the Bangladeshis could not be known immediately.

A Turkish Airways flight carrying them landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital around noon, said an official at the airport's immigration department.

The foreign ministry on its official Facebook page yesterday announced that the six Bangladeshis started their homeward journey from Spain's Malaga Airport on Tuesday.

The Bangladeshis were evacuated from Afghanistan by the US army and initially taken to Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh on August 28.

They were then flown to Rota military base in Spain in a US military plane on August 30, reads the foreign ministry post.

The Bangladeshis were staying at the base under the US army's supervision, the Facebook post said.

After they sought support from the Bangladesh embassy in Madrid, the foreign ministry directed the embassy to take necessary measures for their repatriation.

The Bangladesh embassy immediately established communications with the Bangladeshis and also successfully established communications with the Spanish foreign ministry, US embassy and US officials at the Rota base.

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