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# Dengue data dearth impairs health experts

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Dengue became endemic in the country in 2000, but the government is yet to put in place an automated system that comes up with the exact number of cases, crucial to get a clear picture of the situation.



Entomologists said knowing the exact number of cases is very important to check Aedes mosquito -- carrier of dengue and chikungunya viruses -- in a more scientific way. "Identifying all dengue cases and conducting anti-mosquito drives in and around houses and workplaces of the patients early in the season is very important to control Aedes mosquitoes," said entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar. He said if the authorities fail to destroy mosquito breeding hotspots, the number of dengue cases would continue to rise. "So, introduction of an automation system for recording cases is very important."

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) collects data only from 41 hospitals and clinics across the country. However, the number of hospitals, clinics, and diagnostics centres is around 9,000, including about 5,800 diagnostic centres.

The experts said most of the dengue positive cases are not included in the DGHS statistics as data of most of the hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres is left out.

They also said statistics of dengue patients who take treatment at home is also not included in the DGHS data.

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Night blooming Red Water lilies adorn the Shonar haar in Sunamganj as flashes of lightning light up the sky. Almost 70 percent of the wetlands in the district are covered in water lilies for around seven to eight months every year. These large flowers help farmers with honey cultivation throughout these months, as they attract swarms of bees. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHOVAN ACHARYYA

# 'Not out of the woods'

Says WHO Covid chief AGENCIES

The World Health Organization's Covid-19 chief warned Tuesday "We're not out of the woods" in the fight against the pandemic, even if many people thought it was nearly over.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the technical lead for WHO's Covid-19, said last week 3.1 million known new cases were reported to the UN health agency, and 54,000 more deaths -- though the true numbers would be much higher.

"The situation is still incredibly dynamic. And it's dynamic because we don't have control over this virus," she said during a live presentation on the WHO's social media channels.

"We're not out of the woods. We're very much in the middle of this pandemic. But where in the middle... we're not quite sure yet, because frankly we're not using the tools we have right now to get us closer to the end."

She added: "What I really struggle with is in some..."

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# THREE MISSING TEENS Rab finds them after their Cox's Bazar trip

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six days after the disappearance of three female college students from the capital's Pallabi area, Rab yesterday found them at Abdullahpur's Beribadh.

The three teens had planned to go to Japan by sea with the help of a 24-year-old woman named Hafsa Chowdhury, but eventually decided against it, Rapid Action Battalion said in a press release.

"The girls went to Cox's Bazar instead. A Rab team went there looking for them, [but] they returned to Dhaka's Abdullahpur area this [Wednesday] morning. Rab members rescued the girls from Beribadh area," said Mozammel Haque, commanding officer of Rab-4, in the press release.

The three girls, aged around 15-16, are students of colleges in Mirpur.

The girls were in police custody yesterday and were to be handed over to their guardians following legal procedures, the Rab-4 commanding officer told media. In the press release, Rab said the three students wanted to lead independent lives, of which their families disapproved.

They also lost interest in studies amid... SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

**ROAD TO FREEDOM**  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## 'Death and suffering on a megaton scale'

OCTOBER 7, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**CABINET MEETING HELD**  
The Bangladesh Cabinet today approved a scheme for the medical care and welfare of the injured Mukti Bahini members as well as the dependents of the martyrs.

The cabinet also requested all sector commanders to submit a detailed report of their existing medical facilities established by the Bangladesh government and provided by the Indian Military Medical Department so far.

It was further decided to open a new head of account under the title Health (Defence Medical Service) Account. An amount of 10 lakh rupees was sanctioned under this head of account. The fund would be placed at the disposal of the prime minister. This sanction would be utilised only in urgent and pressing cases. To cover the requirements on the civil side it was decided to open another new head of account under the title Health (Civil Medical Service) Account. An amount 5.5 lakh rupees was sanctioned under this account and placed at the disposal of the prime minister.

**LABOUR PARTY CONDEMNS PAKISTAN GOVT**  
The annual Labour party conference, in an unanimously carried statement, today condemned the Government of Pakistan for its unjustified use of military force against the people and democratically elected leaders of East Pakistan.

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COLLEGE STUDENT'S DEATH

# Submit rape, murder probe report by November 2

Court orders PBI COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to submit by November 2 the probe report of a case filed against Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir and seven others over the rape and murder of a college student in Dhaka's Gulshan.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Nivana Khair Jesi passed the order after Investigation Officer Golam Moktar Ashrafuddin, also an inspector of the PBI, failed to submit the report yesterday as previously scheduled, court sources said.

The Bashundhara MD was made prime accused in the case for allegedly murdering the victim

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# Robots speed up Greece's postal service



REUTERS, Athens

There's a new addition to Greece's postal service: a fleet of yellow robots sorting through the mail.

Fifty-five small, four-wheeled autonomous mobile robots -- or AMRs -- powered by artificial intelligence, glide around Hellenic Post's sorting centre in Athens, speeding up an often arduous process.

They scan the postal code, weigh the package and, directed by sensors, empty it into the corresponding mail sacks set up around a platform.

The robots are part of the state-owned company's digital restructuring programme, which aims to... SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

# MOHIB ULLAH MURDER 3 more now in police remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A court in Cox's Bazar yesterday placed three Rohingya men on three-day remand each in connection with the killing of Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah.

Two other Rohingya men, arrested in the case, were placed on remand earlier.

Teknaf Senior Judicial Magistrate Tamanna Farah passed the order after police produced Md Salam, 32,...

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**PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 7**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-53 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-56 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Another case filed against Eorange

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Another case was filed against the controversial e-commerce platform Eorange's top brass in Chattogram over unfulfilled orders amounting to Tk 11 lakh.

The case was lodged by a businessman named Nurul Absar Parvej on behalf of two others with the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Hasan Md Reza against seven persons.

The accused are Eorange's Chairperson Sonia Mehjabin, Chief Executive Officer Masukur Rahman, Directors Sheikh Sohail Rana and Bithi Akter, Chief Operating Officer Amanullah Chowdhury, former COO Md Nazmul Hasan Russel and Director of HR & Admin Mohammad Zayedul Firoz.

The court took the case into cognisance and ordered the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to investigate the matter and take the necessary steps in this regard, said advocate Golam Mowla Murad, the... SEE PAGE 13 COL 6



Hawkers occupy more than half the road, along with the footpath, in the capital's Gulistan intersection, causing traffic congestion in the area. Like this, many roads in the city suffer gridlocks due to unsupervised placements of hawkers. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# WORK ON CATALYSTS Duo wins Nobel Chemistry Prize



David MacMillan



Benjamin List

AFP, Stockholm

Germany's Benjamin List and US-based David MacMillan yesterday won the Nobel Chemistry Prize for developing a tool to build molecules which has helped make chemistry more environmentally friendly.

Their tool, which they developed independently of each other in 2000, can be used to control and accelerate chemical reactions, exerting a big impact on drugs research.

Prior to their work, scientists believed there were only two types of catalysts -- metals and enzymes.

The new technique, which relies on small organic molecules and which is called "asymmetric organocatalysis" is widely used in pharmaceuticals, allowing drug makers to streamline the production of medicines for depression and respiratory infections, among others.

Organocatalysts allow several steps in a production process to be performed in an unbroken sequence, considerably reducing waste in chemical manufacturing,...

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