

Cholera breaks out in city

Breaches in Wasa supply lines largely to blame

ZYMA ISLAM and MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

A cholera outbreak seems to have returned to the city and is being transmitted by the Wasa water supply system.

So far, the worst affected area is Dakshinkhan, with Jatrabari trailing right behind. Other top areas include Mohammadpur, Sabujbagh and Mirpur.

"In my 36-year-long career, I have never seen so many diarrhoea patients," said Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, executive director of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b).

"I would call this an outbreak."

The 350-bed hospital has been seeing three times more inpatients coming in daily, while tents strung up on the premises are having to house the rest -- a vast majority of whom should be able to go home within 24 hours.

"About 23 percent of all the diarrhoea patients coming in were found to be infected with the bacteria called vibrio cholerae," said Dr Md Nazmul Islam, line director of Communicable Disease Control department of the Directorate General of Health Services, citing figures from March 8 to 15.

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Exhausted after losing a lot of fluid, five-year-old Fatema falls asleep in a bed at the icddr,b where she was admitted yesterday. The hospital in the capital's Mohakhali has been dealing with a high number of diarrhoea patients over the past few days.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SANCTIONS ON RAB Abominable move: PM



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday came down heavily on the US for imposing sanctions on Rab and some of its officials saying that this has been an abominable move.

"I think imposing sanctions after all these successes [containing militancy, drugs, robberies and terrorism] is very much an abominable act," she said while speaking at the 18th founding anniversary of Rab at Shaheed Lt Col Azad Memorial Hall of the force headquarters.

Joining the event from the Gono Bhaban virtually, the PM said Bangladesh has provision of punishment if a member of a law enforcement agency gets involved in any kind of crime.

"But it's a matter of regret that they [the US] imposed sanctions on some Rab members without any fault or cause. In their country they don't take any action against any member of their forces for their criminal activities."

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Govt chokes on air pollution measures

Clean Air Bill turned into rules

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Bangladesh's air quality has been the worst in the world for two years in a row -- a worrying development that will only become more acute if strict measures are not taken now such as specific legislation to check the menace.

But the government's stance on

checking the menace appears to be half-hearted at best: it set out to enact a requisite act to ensure cleaner air but took a detour mid-way.

The act has now been converted to rules, which stipulate two years' imprisonment and Tk 2 lakh fine for emitting harmful substances into the air.

"An act is robust but the rules are

not -- it is just more stringent," said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA).

In 2019, BELA helped the Department of Environment draft the Clean Air Bill, about eight years after the World Bank had recommended one.

An act would be enacted through

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BANGLADESHI JOURNO, ENGINEER Now in custody of Libyan authorities

SHARIFUL HASAN

Bangladeshi journalist Zahidur Rahman and expatriate engineer Saiful Islam Tipu, who went missing in Tripoli on March 23, are now in the "safe custody" of the Libyan authorities.

The Bangladesh embassy in Libya said it was trying to get them released but couldn't confirm when and how that would be done.

Speaking to The Daily Star last night, Zahidur's son Farhan Asif Rahman said State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Md Enamur Rahman told them in the evening that his father was in the custody of the Libyan authorities.

Earlier, the Libyan authorities communicated it to the embassy, said Farhan, a third-year student at a private university.

Zahidur, a special correspondent of private TV channel NTV, is also a director of Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital. Enamur is the founding chairman of the private hospital.

Major General SM Shamim-Uz-Zaman, Bangladesh ambassador to Libya, has confirmed the development.

He told The Daily Star last night, "We are in constant contact with

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ZAHIDUR



SAIFUL

Ukraine pauses evacuations Cites provocation from the Russian side

AGENCIES

Ukraine said yesterday it was pausing evacuations of civilians from war-scarred regions of the country because intelligence reports suggested invading Russian troops were planning attacks on humanitarian routes.

"Our intelligence has reported possible provocations by the occupiers on routes of humanitarian corridors. Therefore, for reasons of public safety, we are not opening humanitarian corridors today," Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said in a statement on social media.

Ukraine also warned that the humanitarian crisis in the pulverized city of Mariupol was now "catastrophic", while signalling grounds for compromise ahead of new face-

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■ দেশবাসী ওয়ান স্টপ বিক্রয়োত্তর সেবা
 ■ অস্ট্রেলিয়ার ইনস্টলেশন
 ■ ক্যাশ অফ ডেলিভারি (অনলাইন অর্ডার)

০৫ বছর সার্ভিস, ০২ বছর প্যানেল ও পোর্ট এর নিশ্চিত গ্যারান্টি

প্রদর্শিত মডি-এর মডি টাইট	একক/মডি	বিশেষ মূল্য	মডি ক্যামেরা	একক/মডি	বিশেষ মূল্য	মডি ক্যামেরা ডেস্ক	একক/মডি	বিশেষ মূল্য
32W602D (৩২" ইন্টারনেট টিভি)	৩৫,৯০০	৩০,৯০০	ZV-1 (Compact Camera)	৮৩,৯০০	৬৯,৯০০	MDR-ZX110NC	৮,৯০০	৩,৯০০
43W660G (৪৩" ইন্টারনেট টিভি)	৫৪,৯০০	৪৮,৯০০	Alpha E10L	৯৫,৯০০	৭৯,৯০০	WF-XB700	১১,৯০০	৯,৯০০
50X75 (৫০" এন্ড্রয়েড টিভি 4K)	৯৪,৯০০	৮৩,৯০০	Alpha 7C	২,০৩,৯০০	১,৬৯,৯০০	WF-SP800N	১৯,৯০০	১৬,৯০০
55X80J (৫৫" এন্ড্রয়েড টিভি 4K)	১,০৯,৯০০	৯৯,৯০০	Alpha 7M3	২,০৯,৯০০	১,৯৯,৯০০	WF-1000XM3	১৯,৯০০	১৩,৯০০
55X85J (৫৫" এন্ড্রয়েড টিভি 4K)	১,২৯,৯০০	১,০৯,৯০০	Alpha 7M4	২,৯৯,৯০০	২,৪৯,৯০০	WF-1000XM4	২৯,৯০০	২৪,৯০০
65X80J (৬৫" এন্ড্রয়েড টিভি 4K)	১,৫৯,৯০০	১,১৯,৯০০	৫০mm F1.8	২৮,৯০০	২৩,৯০০	WH-1000XM4	৩৪,৯০০	২৮,৯০০
65X85J (৬৫" এন্ড্রয়েড টিভি 4K)	১,৯৯,৯০০	১,৬৯,৯০০	৪৫mm F1.8	৬৫,৯০০	৫৪,৯০০	SRS-XB13	৫,৯০০	৪,৯০০
75X80J (৭৫" এন্ড্রয়েড টিভি 4K)	২,৪৯,৯০০	১,৯৯,৯০০	10-18mm	৬৫,৯০০	৫৪,৯০০	HT-S100F	১৬,৯০০	১৩,৯০০
			24-70mm F4	১,০১,৯০০	৮৪,৯০০	SRS-XG500	৪৭,৯০০	৩৯,৯০০

সনি-স্মার্ট প্রদর্শিত মডি-এর মডি টাইট, ২০২২/১/৫, পণ্যের ক্যাশ, বেসিস প্রদর্শিত মডি, ডেলিভারি, সার্ভিস। ফোন: ০২-৬৬৬-৬০১০৪৪, ০২-৬৬৬-৬০২১২৩