

51 more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 51 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

With the new ones, the total number of dengue cases rose to 1,579, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the patients, 179 are still undergoing treatment.

A total of 1,399 patients have been released from hospitals, and one patient has died so far.

Warning the city corporations of a major outbreak of dengue this year compared to the last couple of years, experts suggested that the city corporations take extensive measures immediately to control proliferation of Aedes mosquitoes.



PHOTO: STAR

On top of displacing people, the flood in Sylhet badly affected the region's wildlife as well. Due to a lack of dry space, shelter or food -- many of these animals are entering human vicinities -- where they are either poached or killed by residents. What makes matters worse is that there are no records of the number of animals lost to the floods or any identification of the species that have become endangered.

Three held for deceiving job seekers with false ad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday claimed to have arrested three members of a fraud gang on charge of cheating job-seekers by publishing fake job advertisements for over 8,000 posts in two name-only organisations.

A team of Detective Branch (DB, Mirpur division) arrested them from different areas in Dhaka along with Tk 19 lakh amassed from the job seekers, said Muhammad Harun Or Rashid, chief of DB of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday.

The arrestees are Azizul Hasan alias Emran (51), Beauty Akter (35) and Kabir Uddin Pias (30).

The gang circulated a job advertisement on June 15 for 6,472 posts in a so-called private intelligence agency called the "Fairfax Bangladesh Project", claiming it was funded by an US-based agency.

"They are members of an organised fraud gang," the DB chief told reporters at a press briefing at DMP media centre in the afternoon.

The DB official said the gang circulated a job advertisement on June 15 for 6,472 posts in a so-called private intelligence agency called the "Fairfax Bangladesh Project", claiming it was funded by an US-based agency.

The advertisement also mentioned it was approved by the Bangladesh government, he added.

Besides, this gang published another advertisement on June 17 for 1,944 posts in a so-called organisation named "Bangladesh Protibondhi Kollan Trust". They used a fake registration number of the organisation to convince job seekers.

Harun said the gang opened an account with Sonali Bank's Begum Rokeya Sarani branch and asked the interested applicants to deposit Tk 150 to 500, depending on the posts, to the bank account through pay order.

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PRAYER TIMING		JULY 15			
Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4-15	12-30	5-00	6-54	8-15	
JAMAAT 4-50	1-15	5-15	6-58	8-45	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

Prottoyon fails to get momentum

PROTOYON: AT A GLANCE

Started journey in 2019 under LGD

Issues marital status, inheritance, character, nationality, citizenship, land, voting, ethnicity, identity, freedom fighter, income and other certificates

Limited to 319 union parishads out of 4,567; 25 municipalities out of 328; 2 city corporations out of 12



ISSUES

Wrong information despite filing correct applications

Glitches in payment method

Issues in error correction

More time-consuming than manual process

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Prottoyon -- an online platform providing all types of certification services -- has failed to gain the desired momentum since its inception in 2019.

The certification facilities from the chairmen and councillors are still limited to only 319 union parishads out of 4,567, at 25 municipalities out of 328 and two city corporations out of 12 in the country.

Even in those areas where the online service is available, service seekers and service-providing local representatives claimed that they find it difficult to work with and often opt for the age-old manual system.

The project started on a pilot basis in Chattogram City Corporation and Ramu upazila in 2019 under the Local Government Division (LGD) and was funded by a2i.

The platform issues marital

status, inheritance, character, nationality, citizenship, land, voting, ethnicity, identity, freedom fighter, income and other certificates.

The land ministry has recently integrated its online mutation service with the platform as well.

Service-seekers were supposed to get certificates in an hour by logging in to Prottoyon's portal and paying a service charge of less than Tk 30, according to its website.

However, several service-seekers told this correspondent of the many hassles they faced along the way of issuing a certificate online -- from submitting applications online to obtaining the certificate.

Fatima Parvin, a resident of Chapainawabganj municipality, said she had to visit the municipality office multiple times to obtain a citizen certificate after applying through Prottoyon.

"The application was full of errors though I submitted it

correctly," she claimed.

Arif Hossain, a shopkeeper of Ward-7 of West Sholoshahar in Chattogram, applied for a character certificate after paying the service charge.

"But my application was not successful as the system showed charges unpaid. I had to pay the charges again for a successful application," he said.

"The manual process was much easier. I could just go to the councillor's office to fill out a pre-formatted certificate and get the authorised signature," added Arif.

Tofail Ahmed, secretary of Ward-7 of West Sholoshahar, said he faced difficulties getting access to the system while trying to correct some mistakes in the application.

"People often make mistakes on their application and ask for corrections. To correct this, we have to apply for technical support from Olvine. Unless they are okay,

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UN allots \$5m for flood victims

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN has announced allocation of \$5 million as relief for the flood victims in the country's northeastern region.

Martin Griffiths, under-secretary general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator, UN, made the announcement on Wednesday after a coordinated appeal by the UN country team in Bangladesh, according to a statement issued by the UN yesterday.

Over 7.2 million people have been affected by recent floods in the country's north-east, and over half of those affected need humanitarian assistance.

The funding comes from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which aims to kick-start relief efforts in a coordinated and prioritised manner when a new crisis emerges.

The UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Gwyn Lewis, spoke of her recent visit to the flood affected areas.

"The scale of the floods in the region are more dramatic than any that have been experienced in recent memory. Many families have literally lost everything they own. Many

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Wildlife under threat in Sylhet

Flood forces animals to enter locality and fall prey to poaching

MINTU DESHWARA

Humans weren't the only casualties of the floods in Sylhet, especially in the haor area, as a significant number of wild animals died too.

However, those who survived aren't faring that well either. At present, they are becoming victims of another grave danger -- poaching.

In the face of food and habitat crises, Sylhet's wildlife often enter human habitats for survival and either get caught or killed.

The forest department is conducting rescue operations in different places, however, it's becoming increasingly hard for them to curb the scale of poaching.

Shahab Uddin, a resident of Guptagram in Moulvibazar's haor area, said as the flood waters inundated his house for 15 days, he sent his family to live with other relatives.

But meanwhile, snakes have taken shelter in his house, unable to find any other place to live, he told this correspondent recently.

"My neighbours are killing three to four snakes every day. Many are using carbolic acid to get rid of them," he added.

According to the forest department, recent floods in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj, and Moulvibazar have caused great loss of life and property as well as wildlife.

Most animal habitats have been completely destroyed in the floods, they added.

"Due to the lack of dry space and shelter within the

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'He had so much more to offer'

Eminent citizens recall noted archaeologist Enamul Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death of Prof Dr Enamul Haque, prominent archaeologist and former director general of Bangladesh National Museum, is an irreplaceable loss to the nation; he had so much more to offer, said eminent citizens yesterday.

They said this at a programme organised at the museum premises to pay last respects.

"Dr Enamul Haque gets all the credit for bringing the national museum to today's modern model and making it familiar to the public. He is a legendary archaeologist," said Education Minister Dipu Moni.

"He contributed to almost every sector of our culture... His age was not a bar [in working for art and culture] because of the huge amount of enthusiasm he had for Bengali art and culture," she said.

Speaking at the programme, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud said Enamul has not only contributed to the country, but also brightened the country's image in the international arena.

"If we could have such a good man for a few more days, he could have contributed much more to the nation," he said.

While commemorating, AAMS Arefin Siddiqui, president of the museum board and former vice chancellor of Dhaka University, said Enamul and the museum are so intertwined that they are like two sides of the same coin.

Dr Zafarullah Chowdhury, Gonoshasthaya Kendra's founder and trustee, said one must know and love the country if they want to be patriotic. Enamul had a significant contribution in inculcating patriotism in the country's people.

Enamul's daughter Trina Haque said deep patriotism and consciousness were the sources of all of his works.

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'Not this century-old field'

Locals protest Ashrayan project on playground

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Residents of Sirajganj's Boldipara formed a human chain protesting the proposed Ashrayan project work at a playground yesterday.

They said the field is used by children and youth from four connecting area in Kayempur union.

"We are not against the Ashrayan project. We want homes for the homeless but a children's playground also needs to be preserved. We have submitted an application to the Shahzadpur UNO and local representatives in this regard," said Md Rawshon Alom, a senior citizen of the village and key organiser of the protest.

And this is a century-old playground. All the more reason to preserve it," he added.

Bimol Banerjee, member of ward-5 under Kayempur

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A man puts his net in the waters of Padma river, in hopes of getting a good catch, while his son helps him, standing on the bank. On the occasion of Eid, the father-son duo went to their village home to celebrate, and managed a quick fishing excursion in between, with the scenic Padma Bridge stretching in the background. This photo was taken in Munshiganj's Shimulia ghat area recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN