



Dengue claims 5 more lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five dengue patients died while 284 patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. With the 284 new patients, the total number of dengue cases this year rose to 7,397. A total of 850 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment.

With the new death cases, which is the highest in a single day this year, the total number of dengue deaths rose to 31.

Among the deaths, 15 were at Cox's Bazar, two at Barishal, one at Chattogram and 13 in Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Meanwhile, a total of 6,516 patients have been released from hospitals, so far this year. Of them, 1,192 are from outside Dhaka.

Cricketer Al-Amin gets anticipatory bail from HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted eight weeks' anticipatory bail to Bangladesh national team cricketer Al-Amin Hossain in a case filed on charge of torturing his wife and demanding dowry from her.

The HC also asked the pace bowler to surrender before the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Tribunal-8 of Dhaka in eight weeks.

The bench of Justice Md Rezaul Hassan and Justice Md Atabullah passed the order following a bail petition by Al Amin.

Ishrat Jahan, wife of Al-Amin, filed the complaint with Mirpur Police Station on September 1.

She alleged that he (Al-Amin) tortured and abused her for dowry of Tk 20 lakh.

Besides, Al-Amin has forced her to leave the house with her children, she also alleged in the case.

Al-Amin's lawyer M Ashraful Islam said the HC granted bail to his client on the ground that the allegations brought against him are false.

FAKE CERTIFICATES

Sabrina challenges lower court verdict

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dr Sabrina Sharmin Hossain, chairperson of JKG Health Care, yesterday challenged the judgment of the lower court that sentenced her to 11 years' rigorous imprisonment in a case filed over issuing fake Covid-19 certificates.

The JKG's chairperson filed the appeal with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka, Additional Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal told The Daily Star.

Sabrina also filed a petition, seeking bail in the case on grounds that she has been in jail since July 12, 2020.

Judge (in-charge) Syeda Hafsa Jhuma fixed September 15 for hearing on both the appeal and bail petition.

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PRAYER TIMING		SEPTEMBER 7	
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:30	6:20 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:25 8:15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION			



A HUNDRED MILES... Even though the rain has its way of inconveniencing residents, at times it comes as a blissful addition to the most ordinary of moments. At the Tejgaon rail crossing yesterday, this photojournalist came across such a scene, as these two friends were going towards Moghbazar by walking on the rail tracks amidst the rain.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Emergency care can save many lives

Health experts stress the need for essential critical care for critically-ill patients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If essential critical care can be ensured in all hospitals, the lives of many critically-ill patients would be saved, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

No country is capable of arranging critical care for all patients, but proper management and customisation of existing resources, and training frontline healthcare workers can ensure a robust system, they said at the event at Institute of Health Economics at Dhaka University.

Essential Emergency and Critical Care (EECC) refers to effective and basic care to identify and treat critically ill patients.

"Providing essential critical care with limited resources is very much possible, and it should be provided in all hospitals across the country," said Prof MA Faiz, former director general of Directorate General of the Health Services (DGHS), while presenting a keynote at the event.

At the beginning of his presentation, he shared the story of a critically-ill malaria patient who was taken to a 250-bed district hospital. With multiple organ failures, including a non-functioning kidney, the doctor had to refer them to another hospital with dialysis facility.

Unfortunately, the patient died around half an hour after starting dialysis. It was too late.

Prof Faiz noted that 1,21,090 patients died in 564 hospitals across the country in 2018, according to Health Bulletin 2019, published by DGHS.

Many of them could have been saved if they were given critical care timely, he said.

By examining some basic parameters -- like heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, consciousness, body temperature, and oxygen saturation -- any doctor can provide necessary primary treatment to a critical patient, he explained.

He highlighted four obstacles to providing such care: lack of skilled personnels; limited access to equipment, supplies, and medicines; inadequate

infrastructure; and inequality among government and private hospitals.

To ensure essential critical care for all patients, introduction of the "triage system" can help.

The system is used to determine which groups of patients should receive treatment and care based on their clinical status, prognosis of diseases, and available resources.

“Providing essential critical care with limited resources is very much possible, and it should be provided in all hospitals across the country.”

PROF MA FAIZ
Former director general of DGHS

Speaking at the event, Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general (administration) of DGHS, informed that DGHS has been working to introduce essential critical care in two hospitals. The system will be functional in the next 15 to 20 days.

"We have no time to sit idle. We have to start now," Prof Kabir said, adding that patients will receive all services while staying in bed.

While speaking, Prof Robed Amin, line director of the non-communicable disease control unit at DGHS, highlighted the health-education gap among people in the country.

Dr Md Enamul Haque, director general of health economics unit at the health ministry, also stressed on promoting health education.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairperson of Power and Participation Research Centre, stressed on cost-effectiveness, as well as skill and capacity building.

New buses on 2 Dhaka routes from October 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bus route rationalisation committee has set October 13 as the fresh deadline to introduce new buses on two routes in Dhaka, under Nagar Paribahan service, as it missed the target date, September 1.

One route is from Ghatarchar to Demra Staff Quarter via Bosila, Mohammadpur Town Hall, Farmgate, Shahbagh, Fakirapool, Motijheel and Sayedabad, while the other one is from Ghatarchar to Postogola Kadamtoli via Bosila, Mohammadpur, Asadgate, Kalabagan, Science Lab, Azimpur and Gulistan flyover.

Bus service on yet another route, which was also supposed to start in September -- from Ghatarchar to Chittagong Road via Mohammadpur, College Gate, Science Lab, Shahbagh, Press Club, Gulistan, Dainik Bangla, Rajarbagh, Kamalapur and Dhalpur -- will start on November 30.

Authorities plan to introduce 200 buses on the three routes.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh disclosed this during a press briefing yesterday, after holding the

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OMS rice sale to continue

Food minister says they will carry on programme until market becomes stable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will continue the Open Market Sale (OMS) programme as long as it needs to keep the rice market stable, said Food Minister Shadhan Chandra Majumder during a press conference at the secretariat yesterday.

Alongside the OMS programme, the ministry will continue to import rice to tackle a probable Aman production shortfall due to drought, he said.

Shadhan also mentioned they have completed internal procurement of Boro rice and procured more than their target.

"Our target was 11 lakh tonnes of parboiled rice and 50,000 tonnes of sunned rice. We've already procured 11,21,910 tonnes of parboiled rice and 55,208 tonnes of sunned rice."

Mentioning that the government has decreased the tax rate, he said they have extended the deadline for rice import to December 30 from October 30.

"We've already issued a gazette notification so that businesspersons can apply and open LCs by September 30 for importing rice," he said.

Under the OMS and FFP programme, one crore beneficiaries will get rice at Tk 30 a kg under OMS and 50 lakh special cardholders at Tk 15 per kg under FFP.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase approved the import of five lakh tonnes of wheat

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Govt 'incapable' of resolving issues with India: Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said the current Awami League government has failed to resolve the outstanding issues with India as it lacks public support.

He came up with the remarks while talking to reporters after paying homage to BNP founder Ziaur Rahman by placing a wreath with the leaders of the newly formed partial committee of Jatiyatabadi Swechchasebak Dal.

About the premier's visit to India, Fakhru said every time she went to India giving people a lot of hope about singing Teesta and many other deals, but that has not happened so far.

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What was your achievement? Hasan Mahmud blasts BNP

BSS, Dhaka



Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said whatever Bangladesh got from India was possible because of Awami League and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir has criticised the premier's ongoing visit to India, and whatever he said fits with BNP and Begum Khaleda Zia," said Hasan, also AL joint general secretary.

"You all know that Begum Zia was asked about the Ganges water-sharing issue after she had returned from India. She replied, 'Oh Allah, I've forgotten about the issue,'" he said.

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'Mariam is waiting for her in heaven'

Says husband of Keraniganj fire victim who succumbed to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-six-year-old Sonia Akter was yearning to see her four-year-old daughter, who succumbed to burn injuries a week ago, just a few hours before she died in the early hours of yesterday.

With 23 percent burn injuries on her face, forehead and trachea, Sonia breathed her last around 3:30am at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Six members of Sonia's family, including her beloved daughter Mariam Akter, were burnt in an explosion, which was supposedly caused by a gas leak, in Dhaka's Keraniganj on the morning of August 30.

The victims were rushed to the hospital that day, where Mariam breathed her last around 1:30pm with 60 percent burns on her body.

Sonia's family, however, did not inform her about her daughter's demise, fearing she would not be able to handle the shock, which would further worsen her condition.

"After undergoing her surgery, Sonia was put on life support on Monday night. When our eight-year-old son Imran and I met her for the last time, she was still asking about Mariam," said Osman Gani, Sonia's husband.

"Now they will finally meet in heaven. Mariam is waiting for her..." he could not finish the sentence.

Sonia's body was taken home without an autopsy. She was buried after Asr prayers, said Osman's cousin Amin Miah.

Five of the injured, including Sonia's mother Begum

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A rickshaw-puller crosses a small bridge cautiously as a transformer has been kept there, blocking the way. Besides, no warning signs have been installed nor adequate safety measures are at place to caution the commuters. This photo was taken in Dakshin Jatrabari area yesterday.