

2 dead, 568 hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two dengue patients died while 568 were hospitalised across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

The total number of dengue deaths rose to 58, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the death cases, 27 are in Dhaka, 19 in Cox's Bazar, six in Chattogram and five in Barishal.

With the new cases, the total number of dengue cases rose to 17,295.

A total of 2,210 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment. Meanwhile, 15,027 patients have been released from hospitals.

A monsoon survey of the DGHS which was conducted between August 11 and 23, found the presence of Aedes



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Due to the metro rail construction work, many sewage lines in the areas near Mirpur Bus Stand were affected and the pipes started leaking. As a temporary solution, the authorities responsible built this pathway for residents to get across. Days have passed but a permanent solution is yet to be provided while residents suffer. This photo was taken in East Kazipara yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Robbing the freshly-landed Rab arrests airport-based robbery gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even though Amir Hossain (52) used to work at a fast-food restaurant near the Dhaka airport, he was often seen on the airport premises with a passport and a luggage.

In disguise of an expatriate who just returned from abroad, Amir used to keep a close watch on other returnees and tried to befriend them.

He would offer his targets a microbus-ride with him, driven by his cohort. Sometimes, he would also offer them bus rides.

Once the targets agreed, Amir and his cohorts would sedate them and rob their money and other valuables on their way.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) revealed the information on Saturday after arresting Amir and three of his accomplices in Dhaka.

Amir is the kingpin of an airport-based gang. He and his gang members have sedated and robbed around 300 people -- mostly expatriates -- in the last 15 years.



KHANDAKER AL MOIN
Director, Rab's legal and media wing

The three other arrestees are -- Liton Mia alias Milton (48), Abu Bakar Siddique Parvez (35) and Jakir Hossain (40).

"Amir is the kingpin of an airport-based gang. He and his gang members have sedated and robbed around 300 people -- mostly expatriates -- in the last 15 years," said Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, told a press conference yesterday.

Using similar tricks, Amir on September 2, robbed the luggage -- carrying valuables like eight tolas of gold ornaments -- of a Bangladeshi expatriate who returned from Kuwait and was on his way to Bogura, Moin said.

This gang of at least 10 members is active in the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport area for years, he added.

They mainly target expats who are accompanied by only one attendee at the airport to take them home.

The Rab director said Amir was arrested twice -- on January and April -- for the same offence.

However, he started the gang's operations again once he was out on bail.

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New horizon in climate research

Climate Technology Park launched in Gazipur



MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Climate Technology Park, launched on Saturday in Gazipur's Stripur upazila, is set to open a new horizon in adaptation research to tackle the impacts of climate change.

The centre was built by Christian Commission for the Development of Bangladesh (CCDB), with financial support from German-based donor agency Brot Fur Die Welt (Bread for the World).

Minister of Agriculture Muhammad Abdur Razzaque inaugurated the facility.

"The centre will bring a radical change in the country's fight against climate change," he said.

"Gazipur was renowned for its sprawling Sal forest. However, that is old history now. The destruction of the forest reserves is one of the major causes behind global warming and climate change. The

more the deforestation, the more the natural calamities," he added.

Those involved with the facility said this centre will address the knowledge gap, lack of climate technologies and action research to create contextual solution to the climate crisis through engaging academia, researchers, affected communities, development practitioners and policy makers.

The centre was built in an area of 30 acres and has five ecological zones, including a haor region, a dry region, Char areas, hilly areas and a coastal zone, illustrating the resilience mechanism of each zone.

Climate expert Saleemul Huq told The Daily Star that there are different activities going on in different regions.

One of the key features of the facility is that it has five different ecosystem zones in display, where one can easily get a picture of what

kind of impact each zone is facing.

"Global researchers will come here to see how we are coping with the impacts of climate change. They will share their knowledge and learn from our resilience strategies," he said.

The state-of-art facility will mainstream the transformative community-led adaptation and climate risk reduction by accelerating innovation, capacity development and knowledge dissemination, said CCDB Executive Director Juliate Keya Malakar.

"It is our dream that this centre will now start supporting us, the communities we work with, and the country, in shaping our common future in climate resilience and zero carbon emission pathways", she said.

The facility also has 70 practical technologies that are effective in

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Woman dies after being hit by BRTC bus in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified woman died after a double-decker BRTC bus hit her in Gulistan yesterday afternoon.

The woman, aged around 50, sustained critical injuries after the bus hit her near Sergeant Ahad Police Box around 12:15pm.

She was taken to DMCH

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The authorities have dug up a major chunk of the pavement on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue to install underground cables. They, however, left many of the electric cables on the pavement unattended. As a result, pedestrians have to walk amid risk of major accidents while trying to avoid tripping over the wires. This photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

LAND MUTATION Tk 77 lakh deposited thru cashless payment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the government made cashless payment mandatory for paying fees for land mutation, about Tk 77 lakh was deposited in the exchequer till 3:00pm yesterday from October 1. An expatriate can get the service within nine to 12 working days.

The land ministry receives 22 lakh to 25 lakh applications on an average each year.

About 6,200 QR codes enabled duplicate carbon receipts of mutation were issued to service seekers and the government received Tk 69 lakh for providing these during this period.

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Rab being reformed constantly

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after rejecting plans for any reform of Rab by its newly appointed director general, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said the elite force is being reformed constantly.

"We are always reforming [Rab]. We are modernising everything," he said replying to a query at a programme in the city.



Whoever commits a punishable offence, be it Rab or police, are not beyond punishment. Visit the jails and you will see many police and Rab members are serving terms there. We are not sparing anyone.

"Whoever commits a punishable offence, be it Rab or police, are not beyond punishment," he said.

"Visit the jails and you will see many police and Rab members are serving terms there. We are not sparing anyone," Asaduzzaman said.

On Saturday, Rab DG M Khurshid Hossain said there is no question of reforming the special force as they are doing their job according to the rule of law.

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'We were not careful enough' Says Quader on last year's Durga Puja violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said there was some lack of caution on their part during last year's Durga Puja as they thought like previous years the celebrations will be held in a peaceful manner.

"I would like to remind you that Durga Puja was targeted for violence only once in the last 13 years (of the present government). Last year, some untoward incidents took place. The Hindu community members, their temples and homes were targeted. Even their shops were vandalised," Quader said.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said, "It is true that we were not careful at some places (during the Puja celebration last year). The worst incident took place in Chaumuhani..."

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INT'L DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE Communal harmony under threat: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Badiul Alam Majumder, secretary of Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan), a civil society platform for good governance, yesterday said communal harmony is now under threat.

"We were established as a non-communal country, but our communal harmony is now under threat. Communalism is on the rise, and this is unacceptable," he said while addressing a webinar marking International Day of Non-Violence.

He said a platform named Peace Facilitator Group (PFG) was created at the upazila level following the violence centring the 2014 national elections and the trial of war criminals.

The group is currently being operated in 72 upazilas by 1,500 volunteers.

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OUTBOUND PASSENGERS Covid-19 testing at Shyamoli TB hospital from Oct 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outbound passengers in the capital will have to do their Covid-19 tests at the 250-bed TB Hospital in Shyamoli from October 6.

Before, passengers used to get the service at Army Stadium. The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) introduced the existing testing facility at the stadium on July 6, said Prof Roben Amin, line director at the Non-Communicable Disease Control wing of DGHS.

Before that, the outbound passengers had to

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PRAYER
TIMING
OCTOBER 3

Fajr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 4:45

12:45

4:15

5:53

7:30

JAMAT 5:20

1:15

4:30

5:56

8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION