

## Alarming rise of dengue in Ctg

Oct cases double that of past nine months

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The number of dengue patients recorded in Chattogram city in October so far is almost double that of the past nine months.

As many as 1,560 people were diagnosed with dengue in October till yesterday. The figure added up to 815 from January to September, according to office sources.

Overall, a total of 2,375 dengue patients have so far been detected in the port city this year till yesterday, and 14 people have died, said sources at Chattogram Civil Surgeon office.

**As many as 1,560 people were diagnosed with dengue in October till yesterday. The figure added up to 815 from January to September, according to office sources.**

Although Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) sprays insecticides to destroy mosquitoes and their larvae every day, the number of dengue patients are on the rise, worrying residents.

Regarding the matter, Civil Surgeon Dr Mohammad Elias Chowdhury said it has rained almost daily this month, which has created a favourable atmosphere for Aedes mosquitoes to breed.

"It is alarming that dengue patients are also being detected in almost every upazila on a daily basis," he said. "But the good news is that almost 99 percent of the patients have been cured."

The office sources said the dengue outbreak intensified in Chattogram since June. Earlier, nine people were infected in

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Construction materials, including bricks, concrete and sand, are kept right on the bank of Old Brahmaputra river, further endangering the waterbody, which has already been suffering due to pollution and encroachment. This photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

## The final nail in Brahmaputra's coffin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

When the town sleeps, trucks belonging to Mymensingh city authorities dump wastes into the dying Old Brahmaputra, killing whatever that is left of the river.

Besides, construction materials, including bricks, concrete and sand, are kept

right on the riverbank, harming the environment and biodiversity.

Locals alleged that Mymensingh City Corporation (MCC) is responsible for polluting the river.

There is no way MCC authorities can deny responsibilities, as their office is very close to the river, they added.

The 283 kilometre Old Brahmaputra, which stretches from Jamalpur's Dewanganj upazila to Meghna in Kishoreganj's Bhairab, is one of the longest rivers of the country. Many tributaries and small rivers dependent on the Brahmaputra are also in crisis due to this mindless pollution.

When this correspondent

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“Although dumping waste into the river stopped momentarily following protests, it started again as the high-ups of the city corporation and vested political quarters are involved in this practice.”

MD NAZRUL ISLAM  
CHUNNU  
Convener of Jonouddog

## Truck falls off bridge after railing collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A sand-laden truck fell into Boalia canal after parts of the bailey bridge on Khulna-Mawa old highway in Bagerhat collapsed yesterday morning.

Fortunately, truck driver Md Jaber (32) and his crew managed to come out of this incident with minor scars, as none had to be hospitalised.

However, traffic movement was suspended on the overpass till filing of this report, much to the despair of thousands of people who use the bridge every day.

Road department authorities told this newspaper that the bridge will be repaired as soon as possible.

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Residents of Khulna's Bastuhara colony have been suffering immensely ever since cyclone Sitrang rocked the country five days ago. Many areas have knee- to waist-deep water, which has confined residents to their homes. PHOTO: STAR

## 2 sent to jail on attempt to rape charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Panchagarh court sent two people to jail yesterday on charge of attempting to rape a madrasa girl in a tea garden of the district on Thursday.

Judicial Magistrate Md Asrafuzzaman passed the order after the duo was produced before the court.

The arrestees are Firoj Ali (27) and Maruf Hossain (21) of Panchagarh's Boda upazila.

Police arrested the two yesterday morning, after the girl's father filed a case the night before.

Quoting the case statement, Officer-in-Charge of Boda Police Station Sujeyo Kumar Roy told The Daily Star that the girl, a ninth-grader, studies at a local madrasa in the upazila.

When the accused noticed her returning home on Thursday, they took her to a tea garden and tried to rape her.

The criminals fled the scene when the girl screamed for help. After reaching home, she narrated the incident to her parents.

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## Submerged for five days!

Khulna's Bastuhara colony residents suffer as authorities fail to ensure proper drainage

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Rainwater hasn't drained out of Khulna city's Bastuhara colony yet, even after five days, causing immense suffering to 5,000 residents.

It rained heavily on Monday during cyclone Sitrang. In its effect, two-thirds of Khulna city went under water, including Bastuhara colony, one of the low-lying areas. Although water receded in other areas since the storm, many roads and areas of the colony are still submerged.

Visiting the area yesterday morning, this correspondent found many roads, including 10, 11 and 8, under knee-deep water. Many residents are forced to stay indoors, while those who live on the streets suffered the most.

Rickshaw pullers drop passengers outside the colony to avoid filthy water.

In some places, the water's colour is reddish or blue. Stagnant water was

spreading a putrid smell in the areas.

Despite repeated promises of public representatives, no initiative has been taken to reduce waterlogging, locals alleged. They also said, the colony gets waterlogged even after a drizzle.

“The floors inside my house remain flooded since Monday. During this time, we've kept valuables, including our stove, on the bed.”

NAHAR BEGUM  
Resident of Bastuhara colony

Sahajalal Hawlader, a trader and resident of the colony, told The Daily Star that it is almost impossible to live there after rain.

"After rain, the entire place turns to a

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যৌথ অংশীদারিত্বের ভিত্তিতে অ্যাপার্টমেন্ট নির্মাণের জন্য

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