

DHAKA

Mosquitoes take over Dhaka airport

Authorities taking measures to curb menace

RASHIDUL HASAN

As evening takes over the city, flocks of mosquitoes reign over Dhaka airport area, making passengers suffer miserably.

During a recent visit to the airport, this correspondent saw people sitting on benches with mosquito coils in front of their feet.

Passengers and their attendants said the mosquito menace has turned intolerable at the country's largest international airport.

Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) authorities said they have conducted programmes, which include applying new technology to prevent the mosquito influx in the area.

Group Captain Kamrul Islam, executive director of HSIA said, apart from applying natural technologies, they are also using chemicals to repel mosquitoes.

"The airport authorities released guppy fish a few months ago in different canals and ponds situated in the airport area. We are also using mosquito traps and have planted different types of mosquito-repelling trees like garland, lemongrass

and holy basil," he said.

This time, the authorities have taken the initiative to install mosquito traps that use French technology at the airport.

A survey report of CAAB in April found that the airport vicinity ran a high risk of being breeding grounds for Aedes and Culex mosquitoes. The survey found mosquito larvae in two canals, some ponds, ditches, drains, containers and lakes near the airport.

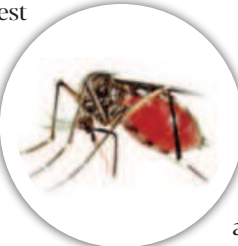
Experts in the survey recommended a clean-up of mosquito breeding habitats, releasing guppy fish, and using chemical or bio-pesticides.

Passengers said it is alarming how badly domestic and foreign passengers are affected by mosquitoes in the area.

"The mosquitoes are biting the waiting passengers all the time, and no arrangement is available to get respite," said Ali Azam, who was going to Saudi Arabia on a Biman flight on Thursday.

"As both city corporations have failed to clean the waterbodies in time, many areas, including the airport area, have been riddled with severe mosquito problems

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US Ambassador Peter Haas at a views-exchange meeting with the members of the Editors' Council at a hotel in the capital yesterday. The meeting was moderated by President of the Editors' Council and Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam. Editor of Prothom Alo Matiuur Rahman; Editor of Daily Manabzamin Matiuur Rahman Chowdhury; Editor of Ajker Patrika Golam Rahman; Editor of Bhorer Kagoj Shyamal Dutta; Editor of Daily Ittefaq Tasmima Hossain; Editor of Inqilab AMM Bahauddin; acting Editor of Daily Samakal Mozammel Hossain; Editor of Bonik Barta Dewan Hanif Mahmud; Editor of Financial Express Shamsul Huq Zahid; acting Editor of Dosh Rupantor Mustafa Mamun and Associate Editor of Dhaka Tribune Abu Sayeed Asifur Islam also attended the event.

PHOTO: STAR

Climate-affected countries need tech, financial support
Says UNRC Gwyn Lewis

UNB, Dhaka

UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Gwyn Lewis yesterday said loss and damages and adaptation need to be on the table at COP27 and urgent steps need to be taken to provide financial and technological support to countries like Bangladesh, which have been the most impacted by climate change.

Speaking at "DCAB Talk", held at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka, Lewis said climate change is also impacting Bangladesh's economy.

The UNRC said COP27 comes at a time when South Asia is "impacted in unprecedented ways" by climate change, whether it is the floods in Sylhet and Sunamganj, Bangladesh or in Pakistan and repeated cyclones in India and Bangladesh in recent years.

"Unfortunately, climate talks have been bogged down with politics and economic pressures, so we need to see more citizen action and listen to the voices of people living in Bangladesh, particularly young people and women who are often excluded," she said.

"UN plans to further work on supporting the government to implement the national adaptation plan and the other policy frameworks such as the Delta Plan and the Mujib Climate Prosperity action plan," she said.

By one estimate, up to 50 percent of those now living in Bangladesh's urban slums may be there because they were forced to flee their rural homes as a result of riverbank erosion or flooding, said Lewis.

The data shows that from 2000 to 2019, Bangladesh suffered economic losses worth over \$3.72 billion due to extreme weather events linked to climate change. This leads to another area of work that the UN is supporting — economic growth and LDC graduation, she said.



A reality more alarming than ever

Country tops in adolescent pregnancy rate in South Asia, finds study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh still sees the highest rate of adolescent pregnancy in South Asia. The trends show that the latest adolescent pregnancy rate in the country is 27.7 percent in 2017-18, which was 33 percent in 1993-94.

Although Bangladesh has made strides in decreasing the total fertility rate (TFR), in terms of adolescent pregnancy, the rate is still higher compared to its neighbouring countries, which is 6.8 percent in India (DHS 2019-2021), 8.1 percent in Pakistan (DHS 2017-2018), and 12.1 percent in Afghanistan (DHS 2015), mentioned a recent qualitative study.

The study also found that adolescent pregnancies in the context of Bangladesh are driven mainly by child marriage, and strongly influenced by entrenched social norms around sexuality and gender roles.

Besides, incorrect use of contraceptives (given to them by family members), which is linked to a lack of access to SRH information and services before and immediately following marriage also works as a major factor in this regard.

The findings of the study, titled "My mother-in-law forbade



me to take pills": Factors driving adolescent pregnancies among young women clients from health clinics in Bangladesh", were shared at a roundtable yesterday by Prof Mohammad Bellal Hossain of population sciences at Dhaka University.

It was conducted as part of the Resilience through Information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights & Empowerment (RISE) programme, coordinated by RedOrange Media and Communication, jointly implemented by ISDE Bangladesh, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, Simavi, KIT Royal Tropical Institute, and funded by

Nuffic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Netherlands).

The round-table was jointly organised by RedOrange, with The Daily Star as a media partner, at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

Among other causes, Prof Bellal mentioned the lack of agency of married young women compared to in-laws and husbands, fear and stigma of infertility (linked to hormonal contraception), and desire to solidify marriages with the presence of children also contribute to adolescent pregnancies in Bangladesh.

Physical health effects, mental health problems, parenting

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'A poet who defied traditions'
Speakers on Abul Hasnat at launching ceremony of his Kabitasamagra

STAR REPORT

Late poet and editor Abul Hasnat never wrote poetry in the traditional style, nor did he confuse his writing activities with his responsibility of editing, said speakers at a book launch.

For a long time, Abul Hasnat was in charge of the literary department of Daily Sangbad and editor of the monthly literary magazine Kali o Kalam. However, he was less interested in promoting his writings, they said.

The programme was held at Poet Shamsur Rahman Seminar Hall of Bangla Academy in the capital on Monday, marking his second death anniversary.

A Kabitasamagra by the late poet has been published by Anannya Prokashoni. Poets and recitation artists also paid tribute to Abul Hasnat by reciting his poems at the book launch.

Bangabandhu Chair of Chittagong University Prof Muntassir Mamoon, Prof Syed Manzoarul Islam, Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman, Director General of Bangla Academy Muhammad Nurul Huda, Publisher of Anannya Prokashan Monirul Haque, poet and essayist Prof Souvik Reza, Abul Hasnat's widow Nasimun Ara Haque Minu and others spoke at the programme.

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Swedish, Norwegian envoys meet Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ambassadors of Sweden and Norway to Bangladesh had a meeting with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday and discussed various issues relating to the country's next national election.

Swedish Ambassador Alexandra Berg Von Linde and Norwegian envoy Espen Rikter Svendsen sat in the meeting with Fakhrul at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office at 3:10pm and it continued till 4:30pm.

BNP standing committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury was present at the meeting.

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 9					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 5:00	12:45	3:45	5:25	7:00	
JAMAAAT 5:35	1:15	4:00	5:30	7:30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					



Even though gridlock has become synonymous with Dhaka roads, the situation was especially bad on Rampura DIT road yesterday afternoon. Traffic in the area came to a standstill due to the ongoing HSC examinations. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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