

5 more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five dengue patients died and 888 were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday.

The total number of deaths stands at 192, while the total number of cases rose to 46,486.

Among the death cases, 116 are in Dhaka, 23 in Cox's Bazar, 23 in Chattogram, seven in Barishal, seven in Khulna, five in Mymensingh, two each in Rajshahi and Narail and one each in Narsingdi, Kushtia, Pabna, Khagrachari, Bogura, Madaripur and Feni.

A total of 43,046 patients have already been released from hospitals, while 3,248 are still undergoing treatment.

Experts have urged the authorities concerned to conduct extensive drives to identify clusters of Aedes mosquitoes immediately.



For months now, patients, their attendees and civilians have not been able to move freely on the road in front of National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation, as authorities have dug up a large section for development work. On top of that, vendors have also set up shop on the footpath, further restricting movement. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

METRO RAIL

95pc work of Uttara-Agargaon section completed

Says official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost 95 percent work of the metro rail, from Uttara and Agargaon, has been completed, and all works are expected to be finished by December.

MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), which is implementing the fast-track project, relayed this information yesterday.

Work for system integration is expected to be completed by November. After that, authorities will run a trial with empty trains, he said while talking to reporters at his office.

"We'll provide an updated report to the prime minister," he said, adding that the PM will decide when the line will be opened to the public.

Siddique said the overall progress of MRT-6, the elevated line between Uttara Sector-3 and Motijheel, is 82.68 percent.

The Uttara-Agargaon section is 11.73 km long and has nine stations, he mentioned.



NEW MILITANT OUTFIT

CTTC to probe Jamaat link

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police will investigate whether Jamaat has any connection with the new militant outfit "Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya".

Md Asaduzzaman, chief of the CTTC unit, made the disclosure yesterday.

Rafat Chowdhury, the Sylhet regional coordinator of the new outfit, is the son of Jamaat ameer Shafiqur Rahman.

"We will interrogate Rafat in remand to know whether he had any instructions from his father's organisation (Jamaat) to join this new militant outfit," said Asaduzzaman, while addressing a briefing at DMP's media centre.

Earlier on Wednesday, a CTTC team arrested Rafat and one of his associates Arif Fahim Siddique from Sylhet. The duo were placed in front of a Dhaka court yesterday, which granted a three-day police remand for interrogation.

CTTC says along with the new outfit, Rafat was also the coordinator of the Al Qaeda-inspired banned militant outfit Ansar Al Islam. CTTC arrested Rafat after three Ansar Al Islam members - arrested from the capital's Jatrabari area on November 1 - revealed his name in confessional statements before a Dhaka court on November 6.

The arrestees - Sezadul Islam Sahab (24), Jahid Hassan

“ We will interrogate him in remand to know whether he had any instructions from his father's organisation (Jamaat) to join this new militant outfit. ”

Asaduzzaman, CTTC chief

Bhuyan (21) and Syed Riaz Ahmed (22) - left home and went on hijrat as per Rafat's instruction, said investigators.

CTTC officials said Rafat went on hijrat to Bandarban with 11 youths from Sylhet in July 2021. However, they returned after staying seven days as they failed to gather support for their cause.

Asaduzzaman, also an additional DMP commissioner, said some of the youths have taken training on making bombs. "We have already identified the trainer and are currently trying to arrest him," he said.

Asked about any Jamaat or Shibir connections with Rafat, the CTTC chief said Rafat was involved with Shibir but it is yet to be known what his designation was.

DSCC cleaner dies in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A cleaner of DSCC died after a truck ran him over in Jatrabari yesterday morning.

The deceased was Sekandar Ali (50), from Gaibandha.

SI Asaduzzaman of Jatrabari Police Station said the truck hit the victim when he was travelling to Staff Quarters around 8:00am. Demra police seized the truck and detained its driver, he said.



PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 11

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|------|
| Fazr Juma | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 5:00 | 12:30 | 3:45 | 5:22 |
| JAMAAT 5:35 | 1:15 | 4:00 | 5:25 |
| SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION | | | |

'A journalist for the oppressed'

Speakers tell seminar on Abul Mansur Ahmad



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of the the debate competition on Abul Mansur Ahmad's journalism, in the presence of guests who participated in a seminar on "Abul Mansur Ahmad's Relevance in Progressive Journalism in Bangladesh", at the Dhanmondi campus of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The inconsistency in present-day society makes Abul Mansur Ahmad's progressive journalism more relevant than ever, as his journalism was for the oppressed and focused on societal issues, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

As a journalist, Abul Mansur Ahmad wrote against tyranny. In his other capacities - as a politician and litterateur - his core idea was to bring change in society, they said.

The mediastudies and journalism

department of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and Abul Mansur Ahmad Memorial Trust organised the seminar, titled "Abul Mansur Ahmad's Relevance in Progressive Journalism in Bangladesh", on the university's Dhanmondi campus in the capital.

Addressing the seminar, Ekushey Padak-winning journalist and writer Abul Momen said considering the present situation of Bangladesh, it is an ideal time to write like Abul Mansur Ahmad.

Considering what

fundamentalist groups are doing amid the presence of political hypocrisy, it is an ideal time to write satirical pieces now, he said.

Sadly, satirical pieces are almost absent in newspapers at present, he added.

As keynote speaker, writer and communication expert Khan Md Rabiul Alam said the "genre" of journalism in this part of the globe has been "very vibrant and strong".

Such works could be found in the brand of journalism pursued by

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A preparation meeting with school principals and management for the 22nd "The Daily Star O and A Level" awards was held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. The newspaper has been celebrating the occasion of recognising the outstanding achievements of students since the last 21 years.

PHOTO: STAR

All operations of Jashore tannery must stop: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to stop all operations of SAF Tannery, which is reportedly polluting the environment in Jashore, until it receives a clearance certificate from the Department of Environment (DoE).

The court also asked officials concerned of the government to regularly monitor whether the tannery pollutes Bhairab river by dumping waste in it.

SAF Tannery is situated at Taltola of Nawapara in Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila.

The officials are chairperson of National River Conservation

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Bangladesh, Saudi to sign deals on security, pilgrimage

Saudi deputy interior minister to arrive today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia will sign two agreements - one on security cooperation and another on Mecca Road Initiative - as Saudi Deputy Interior Minister Dr Nasser bin Abdulaziz Al Daoud arrives in Dhaka today on a two-day visit.

The agreement on security cooperation is aimed at improving capacity building, skill development and exchange of visits of security personnel between the two countries, said foreign ministry officials.

The agreement on Mecca Road Initiative is meant to facilitate pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia.

Earlier, pilgrims had to wait for a long time in queues for immigration procedures while going for hajj. But from now on, the procedures will be

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State antagonising word 'indigenous'

Says Rashed Khan Menon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, also president of Bangladesh Workers Party, alleged that the state is now active to stop people from uttering the word "indigenous".

Menon was speaking as chief guest at a rally organised by the national committee for marking the 39th anniversary of Manabendra Narayan Larma's martyrdom on Faculty of Fine Arts premises of Dhaka University yesterday.

Blaming the lack of political will of those in power to resolve the crisis in Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT), Menon said, "Despite MN Larma's protest, there was no recognition of the indigenous people in the constitution."

"The state seems to have an antagonistic relationship with the word 'indigenous'. The state is afraid to utter the word and is active to suppress it," he alleged.

Referring to the conspiracy against the hill people, the seasoned leftist politician said due to settlers, the demography has changed there.

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Form a coalition for mutual benefit

Momen proposes for developing countries in meeting with Brazilian envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has proposed that developing countries like Brazil, Bangladesh and other like-minded southern countries can form an organisation to better manage the supply chain and information sharing, and ensure shared economic development.

He floated the idea when the new Brazilian Ambassador to Bangladesh Paulo Fernando Dias Feres called on the minister at the foreign ministry yesterday.

Momen said at present, developing countries do not have any effective international forum for greater cooperation. But such an arrangement is essential, given the changing global scenario, especially after the pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war, which severely disrupted the global supply chain.

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