

Three more die of dengue; 523 new cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 523 new dengue cases in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning, total cases have crossed 56,000 this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), at least three dengue patients died during the period.

The death toll has now risen to 247, while total cases are now 56,130. Of which, 20,325 are from outside Dhaka.

A total of 53,954 patients, including 19,428 from outside Dhaka, have already been released.

Some 1,929 dengue patients, including 800 from outside Dhaka, are still undergoing treatment.

Experts have been urging the authorities to conduct extensive drives by identifying clusters of Aedes mosquitoes.



Sweat on their brows, and ash smeared on their faces -- day labourers are hard at work unloading coal from a vessel. Despite working for hours walking up and down the plank with heavy loads on their heads, they reportedly get paid Tk 200 each daily. This photo was taken in Gabtoli BIWTA Landing Station recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

DHAKA AIRPORT
3rd terminal to partially open
Oct next year
51pc of construction done, says CAAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-one percent of the construction of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's (HSIA) third terminal has been completed so far. The establishment is expected to partially open for operation in October next year.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman disclosed this information yesterday.

While talking with the newly-elected executive body of Aviation and Tourism Journalists' Forum of Bangladesh (ATJFB) at his office in the capital's Kurmitola, the CAAB chief said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will launch the terminal's partial operation.

He also informed that the third terminal will be fully functional by the end of 2024.

ATJFB President Tanzim Anwar led the delegation on behalf of the organisation.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in December 2019 inaugurated construction work of Terminal 3, which will cost Tk 21,399 crore to build. When the project was first conceived, its outlay was projected to be Tk 13,610 crore.

The terminal was designed by architect Rohani Baharin. The three-storey terminal building, covering 2.30 lakh square metres, will be built by Mitsubishi and Fujita of Japan and Samsung of Korea.

Around two crore passengers will be able to use HSIA yearly following the construction of the third terminal, 70 percent of the funding for which is coming from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

In its current form, HSIA can handle 80 lakh passengers a year. However, the number of passengers is expected to reach 1.4 crore by 2025 and 24.8 million by 2035.

About the progress of the construction work, the CAAB boss said the pace of the work will be faster in the next year.

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FEMALE MIGRANT WORKERS
Make govt services more accessible
Say speakers at dialogue



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Collective effort to address issues
- Raising awareness about migrant rights
- Supervision of recruiting process

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government services for female migrant workers should be easier to avail for ensuring safe, orderly migration and successful reintegration upon returning home, said speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

They said female migrant workers face many kinds of challenges both before and after migration as well as after returning home, so the authorities should make them well aware about migration-related issues.

Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS), supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), organised the dialogue at the capital's Cirdap. Representatives from migrant-rights groups and government service providers attended the event.

Addressing the dialogue, Sumaiya Islam, executive director of Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra, said apart from incidents of torture, many Bangladeshi female migrant workers have to endure excessive work hours in host countries.

She pointed out that these workers also face "wage theft" and said collective effort is required to address this issue.

She also said recruiting agencies should be brought under a mechanism to supervise the whole migration process for the workers' safety and well-being.

There is scope for reviewing the country's labour migration-related laws, services and policies to find out to what extent those are female-friendly, said Mohuya Leya Falia, programme coordinator of MJF.

CWCS President Prof Ishrat Shamim said the services of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) should be promoted.

Sheikh Rumana, executive director of Bangladeshi Ovbashi Mohila Sramik Association, said female migrant workers have to be aware about their rights, and the government has to ensure their dignity.

CWCS Executive Member Farida Yeasmin said there are different

government services in place, many migrant workers are not aware about them.

Mazibur Rahman, managing director of Probashi Kallyan Bank, said response from female returnee migrants to get "special rehabilitation loan", launched by the bank during the pandemic, has been low.

So far, only 92 female returnees took over Tk 2 crore as loan under the scheme, he said, adding that the women who came back due to the pandemic can avail the loan.

The bank disbursed about Tk 900 crore as loan in the last fiscal year alone, whereas before that, its disbursement since its inception in 2011 had been about Tk 784 crore, he added.

In his speech, BMET Director General Shahidul Alam urged migrant workers to properly learn the language of the destination country before migration.

There should be a national standard of eligibility requirements for individuals wanting to migrate abroad, he added.

No alliance with BNP
Says Raushan on return

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid the speculation that Jatiya Party chairman GM Quader might form an alliance with BNP, the party's chief patron and opposition leader Raushan Ershad yesterday unequivocally said there is no question of forming an electoral alliance with BNP.

About allying with BNP ahead of the next national polls, Raushan mentioned that Jatiya Party has suffered a lot under BNP.

"We have seen corruption, mismanagement and inefficiency of 'Hawa Bhavan' during BNP's rule," she added.

Raushan also said that time will tell whether JP will ally with the ruling Awami League ahead of the next general election.

The opposition leader made the remarks while talking to reporters after returning to the country from Bangkok, where she was receiving treatment for around five months.

Raushan also spoke about the much-talked-about friction between her and JP chairman GM Quader.

"We don't have a conflict with GM Quader. We will work together to unite the party," she said.

"I will sit down with all lawmakers, presidium members and other leaders of the party to clear all misunderstanding and confusion in the organisation," she said from a written statement.



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BCL council on Dec 6, so BNP can hold smooth rally
Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) 30th national council will be held on December 6 instead of December 8, to ensure BNP's December 10 rally is held in a smooth manner, said Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

The road transport and bridges minister said this while addressing the triennial conference of his party in Pirojpur. He joined the event virtually from his residence.

He said the decision was taken as per party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directive.

"The government will not obstruct BNP's December 10 rally..." he said.

The AL leader said the conference has been rescheduled in response to BNP's "excuse" that they can't hold their Dhaka rally at Suhrawardy

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Mayor Hanif's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 16th death anniversary of Mohammad Hanif, the first elected mayor of undivided Dhaka City Corporation and president of Dhaka city Awami League.

Following the death anniversary, President M Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and Speaker of the Parliament Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury recalled his memories and contributions to the nation and AL in separate messages.

In 2006, on this day, Hanif passed away at a city hospital due to a prolonged illness and multiple organ failures.

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