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## Play your due role in curbing dengue

Taposh tells govt agencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday urged every government agency to play their role responsibly to destroy the breeding sources of Aedes mosquitoes.

The mayor warned of necessary actions against them otherwise.

He made the remarks at a view-exchange meeting at Nagar Bhaban.

"We will conduct mobile courts from June 15 for four months and will also open a control room for three months from July 15," he said.

The mayor's declarations came at a time when the country has already seen the death of 13 dengue patients. Meanwhile, a total of 1,533 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

At least 46 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

"In Dhaka city, there are many residential buildings and establishments of organisations like the Public Works Department, Railways, Wasa, Police,

various universities, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and other directorates and boards related to education and Rehab. We find mosquito larvae in almost every under-construction building. We want you to properly monitor these structures so that breeding grounds for Aedes are not created," said Taposh.

"Let us know if you are unable to eradicate Aedes breeding grounds so that we can help you. However, you have to ensure cleanliness in your respective buildings afterwards," he added.

Sohel Rana, vice president of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab), said they will take necessary actions against the members who keep the breeding sources intact, provided that DSCC informs them of such structures.

Newton Hauladar, assistant proctor of Jagannath University, urged DSCC to focus on their university and surrounding areas where many students live.

Mamunur Rashid Shuvro, councillor of ward-12, requested involving Rajuk during any drive against under-construction buildings to get better results.



Traders continue their business at a makeshift market, which once used to be the bustling Bangabazar Shopping Complex. After a massive fire burnt it down last month, they set up cots at the site and covered those with colourful plastic sheets to protect them from rain. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

TAX ON DONATIONS  
HC verdict  
on Yunus'  
applications  
May 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will deliver verdict on May 31 on three separate applications filed by Nobel laureate Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus challenging the tax liability imposed on the money gifted by him to his three charitable trusts.

The bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar and Justice Sardar Md Rashed Jahangir yesterday fixed the date after hearing the applications.

Yunus' lawyer Mustafizur Rahman Khan told the court that his client need not to pay any tax on the money under the relevant provisions of the Gift Tax Act, 1990.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, who represented the state, argued that Yunus is legally bound to pay the demanded tax.

According to the case documents, Yunus donated Tk 76.73 crore to three trusts namely "Professor

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Rights defenders on paper, traffickers in reality

Five members of a syndicate arrested

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A syndicate has been smuggling people from Bangladesh to nations such as Italy, France, and America under the pretense that they are employees of a non-governmental organisation.

As employees of the non-governmental organisation known as the "Protection for Legal and Human Rights Foundation," they used to request authorisation from the UN headquarters to attend conferences.

The syndicate member would apply for a visa at the American embassy after receiving permission in writing from the UN headquarters to attend the conference.

However, their true intention was to remain illegally in the host countries after entering with the conference's consent. Additionally, the gang used to charge Tk 10 to Tk 15 lakh from their "customers" for the same arrangement.

The Cyber and Special Crime Division of the police's Detective Branch came up with the findings following the arrest of five members of the syndicate from different areas of the capital on Sunday.

"The syndicate has been trafficking people since 2019,"

Junaed Alam Sharker, additional deputy commissioner of DB police, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The arrestees are Mohiuddin Jewel, 42, Ujjal Hossain alias Murad, 26, Anamul Hasan, 46, Shahadad, 30, and Hadidul Mobin, 35.

Jewel used to identify himself as chairman of the NGO and Uzzal as executive director. They claimed to work towards safeguarding human rights and

**To carry out their illegal activities, they enticed unsuspecting individuals who visited their office in Purana Paltan with promises of a better life abroad.**

promoting social justice. To carry out their illegal activities, they enticed unsuspecting individuals who visited their office in Purana Paltan with promises of a better life abroad.

According to Junaed, the NGO recently applied for authorisation to attend a meeting that would take place at the UN headquarters from April 17 to April 28 and May

4, and obtained a document to that effect.

Three individuals – Anamul, Hadidul, and Shahadad – went to the US embassy for a visa appointment on April 26 using the document, according to a first information report submitted to the Gulshan Police Station by the US Embassy's assistant regional security officer Michael Lee.

However, during the interview with the embassy, the visa applicants failed to describe what they did for the NGO.

The Bangladesh NGO Affairs Bureau was immediately alerted by the embassy, and no such NGO could be found on the list of registered NGOs.

According to the FIR, even the NGO claimed to have a location in New York, but no such location was discovered.

ADC Junaed said they are now investigating how many people were sent to Europe or America in this way. In primary interrogation, the arrestees confessed to sending at least three people to these countries but there could be more, he said. A person sent by the syndicate was deported back from Dubai for suspicious movement, he added.

Promote  
gender  
equality in  
grassroots  
Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youths should be non-sectarian, anti-discrimination, and conscious citizens to achieve gender equality, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They made the remarks at a seminar, titled "Democratic Values in Establishing Gender Equality and Citizenship", organised jointly by Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) and Jagannath University's Department of Public Administration on the university premises.

"This country was once founded on the principles of equality, human dignity, and social fairness. But today, religious turmoil has caused it to veer off course from these ideals. Patriarchy is fueled by religion. To end this discrimination, we must educate young people about it," said Rokeya Kabir, executive director of BNPS.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

MUKTIJODDHA COUNCIL  
Why is a minister  
its chairman?  
HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has questioned legality of the rules that allows the Liberation War affairs minister and the ministry's secretary to become chairman and member of Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council.

The court issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why sections 5(l) (ka) and (Kha) of Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council Act, 2022, that make the minister and the secretary ex-officio chairman and secretary of the council, should not be scrapped.

The HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Mohammad Showkat Ali Chowdhury issued the rule on Monday following a petition filed by Nawab Ali Mondal, a freedom fighter from Bogura's Gabtoli upazila.

The HC also stated the government's action that cancelled the gazette notification recognising Nawab Ali Mondal as a freedom fighter and ordered the government to continue giving him his allowance.

Lawyer Toufiq Inam, who appeared for the petitioner, said both the Liberation War affairs ministry and Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council have turned into a similar institution because of the sections 5(l) (ka) and (Kha) of the act. The same persons have the authority to enquire and judge issues regarding recognition of freedom fighters which is contradictory to the principle of justice.

**Both the ministry and council have turned into a similar institution because of the sections 5(l) (ka) and (Kha) of the act.**



A sea of vehicles waiting in traffic in Mirpur's Darussalam area. Even though gridlock in Dhaka has become a regular phenomenon, demonstrations by political parties often exacerbate the suffering, as was the case yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



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Bashundhara, Dhaka 1229, Bangladesh  
Phone: +880 2 5566-8200 ext.- 6306/1760/1764/1763  
Email: [mbainfo@northsouth.edu](mailto:mbainfo@northsouth.edu)