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Dengue ‘Den-2’
variant more
prominent this year

HELEMUL ALAM

The Den-2 and Den-3 variants of dengue are active this year and of the two, Den-2 is more prominent, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research.

According to experts, the dengue virus has four variants (Den-1 to 4), each of which is further subdivided into distinct genotypes. Den-2, which consists of six genotypes (Asian/American, Asian I, Asian II, Cosmopolitan, American and sylvatic), is frequently associated with severe dengue infections and epidemics.

Among the four, they also said Den-2 and Den-3 variants are more severe.

Mortality risks become higher if a previous patient of the disease is infected with a different variant. However, early detection and immediate hospitalisation can help lower the risks significantly, according to IEDCR.

“We have tested around 40 samples and found that Den-



Den-2 consists of six genotypes (Asian/American, Asian I, Asian II, Cosmopolitan, American and sylvatic). It’s frequently associated with severe dengue infections and epidemics.

2 and 3 variants were more common among patients,” said Prof Dr Tahmina Shirin, director of the institute.

Last year, Den-3 variant was more prominent among patients.

Being affected by Den-2 does not necessarily signal danger. However, cross infections are risky and may lead to more adverse effects if the patients are not hospitalised timely. Delayed hospitalisation is one of the major causes for the deteriorating conditions of dengue patients and their deaths,” she added.

According to the Directorate General of Health Service, 34 dengue patients have died this year, with the number being 21 in just June so far.

Meanwhile, one dengue patient died and 305 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning. The total number of dengue cases this year rose to 4,908.

“Consulting a doctor and taking necessary medication are essential if a patient is diagnosed with fever. Patients should take in enough fluids. Coconut water, saline, home-made fruit juices and serbets will keep them hydrated while ensuring a supply of necessary vitamins and minerals needed to speed up their recovery process,” she asserted.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Residents of the Karail slum and its neighbouring areas opt for short boat rides on Gulshan lake to cross over to the other side. They pay Tk 5 for each ride. However, at times, these small boats can easily get overloaded, posing a risk of capsizing. This photo was taken near Brac Centre in the capital’s Mohakhali.

Snake bites kill over
7,500 every year
Says DGHS study

STAR REPORT

Around 4.03 lakh people are bitten by snakes every year in Bangladesh, and 7,511 of them die of the injury, said a government study released yesterday.

The study by the Directorate General of Health Services’ Non Communicable Disease Control unit was presented at a meeting in Dhaka.

Men are 1.4 times more likely to be bitten by a snake than women, and rural areas account for 95 percent of snake bite victims.

Although snake bites and deaths are common, no anti-venom is produced locally.

“This is a very large number [of deaths]. We have a

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NCD
The silent killer
Risk factors worsen in country, shows govt study

RISK FACTOR	2018	2022
Inadequate fruit, vegetable intake	89.6pc	96.2pc
Over-salting meals	50pc	50pc
Insufficient physical activity	12.3pc	19.5pc
Tobacco use	51pc	44.9pc
Overweight rate	25.9pc	28.9pc
Increased blood glucose levels	8.3pc	9.7pc



Cardio-vascular Diseases



Diabetes



Chronic Respiratory Diseases



Cancer

POPULATION %

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

A government study yesterday stated that the non-communicable diseases (NCDs) risk factors have further worsened in the country compared to 2018.

The third National Non-Communicable Disease Risk Factors Survey highlighted concerning trends in diet, physical activity, and other factors contributing to the burden of NCDs.

The survey results, shared at an event in Dhaka, also raised questions about the effectiveness of health education, promotional programmes and other interventions of the government, said researchers.

At the event, a total of 17 research findings on different aspects of NCDs – conducted by NCD Control unit at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) during 2021-2022, were shared.

“Our survey showed that overall NCD risk factors have increased compared to 2018. It suggests that the government’s intervention through health education and promotion, and other policies are not being fruitful to reduce the risk factors,” said Prof Ridwanur Rahman, lead investigator of the survey.

The 2022 risk factor survey was conducted on 7,680 people, aged

18-69, during November 2022 to January 2023 using the World Health Organization’s STEPS approach.

STEPS approach is an internationally comparable and standardised surveillance tool through which countries can collect, analyse and disseminate core information on NCDs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Intensify efforts in tobacco control

Improve access to fruits, vegetables all year

Promote physical activity

Increase more screenings for hypertension, diabetes

Adopt digital monitoring systems

According to the survey findings, inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption remains a pressing issue, with a staggering 96.2pc of respondents falling short of the recommended daily intake of at least five servings. In 2018, it was 89.6pc.

Besides, the percentage of the population frequently adding salt to their meals or consuming processed foods high in salt was static at 50pc compared to the previous survey.

Insufficient physical activity was another critical risk factor identified by the survey. It has risen to 19.5pc from 12.3pc.

Despite a decreasing trend, tobacco use remains a significant concern in Bangladesh, with 44.9pc of the population using tobacco products (smoke and smokeless). It was 51pc in 2018.

The survey also revealed an alarming increase in overweight rates, affecting 28.9pc of the population from 25.9pc in 2018.

Besides, 5.2pc of individuals were classified as obese.

The prevalence of raised blood pressure was found to be 23.5pc, indicating a worrisome increase compared to previous years.

Similarly, elevated blood glucose levels were observed, with 9.7pc of the population displaying raised fasting blood glucose levels. It was 8.3pc in 2018.

“The data indicates that we will see a higher prevalence of diabetes in the days to come. So the number of premature deaths (before the age of 70) will also rise, which is opposite to the target to reduce it

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HC seeks list of
top drug dealers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Department of Narcotics Control to submit the list of top drug dealers across the country within one month.

At the same time, the court ordered the authorities concerned to conduct an enquiry, in two months, into the allegation of laundering money earned from the illegal drug trade by Bangladeshi citizens.

The Anti-Corruption Commission, National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, Criminal Investigation Department of police and Department of Narcotics Control have been ordered to conduct the enquiry.

The HC bench of justices Nazrul Islam Talukder and Khizir Hayat Lizu passed the order following a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Subir Nandi Das.

Subir submitted the petition based on the reports published in different newspapers, including The Daily Star on June 11, stating that Bangladesh ranked fifth in the world and top in Asia in terms of money laundered from illegal drugs trade, according to the report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Two more Covid
deaths reported
in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country reported two more deaths from Covid-19 and 230 new cases in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Both the deceased were male. Among them, one was between 21 and 30 years old and another between 81 and 90, said a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new deaths, the total number of Covid-19 fatalities in the country rose to 29,457, it added. The death rate stands at 1.44 percent.

With the new infections, the total number of cases rose to 20,41,470, the release added.

The 203 cases were detected testing 2,967 samples across the country in the last 24 hours, pushing the daily positivity rate to 7.75 percent. The total positivity rate stands at 13.21 percent.

In last 24 hours, at least 67 Covid-19 patients have recovered. The total number of recoveries now stands at 20,07,376 and the recovery rate at 98.33 percent, said the release.

18 BCL men
injured in
clash over DU
dorm seats

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 18 Chhatra League leaders and activists were injured after several clashes broke out between two factions of the student organisation on Saturday night over occupying seats at three dormitories of Dhaka University.

According to witnesses, all the injured are followers of DU BCL president Mazharul Kabir Shayan and Tanbir Hasan Shaikat, its general secretary.

Following the incident, four of the injured were admitted to the university’s medical centre.

The incident started at Masterda Surya Sen Hall when the followers of Shayan tried to occupy seats that were already taken by Shaikat’s followers.

The same factions were involved in two more clashes in Dr Muhammad Shahidullah Hall and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall.

“The incidents were regretful. We have urged our activists to refrain from such activities in the future and warned to take strict

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PRAYER
TIMING

JUNE 19

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



GCC MAYOR SUSPENSION
HC scraps Zahangir’s
petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday, with observations, disposed of a writ petition filed by former Gazipur City Corporation mayor Mohammad Zahangir Alam challenging the legality of his suspension from the post.

The HC bench of Justice Zafar Ahmed and Justice Md Bashir Ullah, however, did not disclose the observations.

On November 25, 2021, Zahangir was expelled from the Awami League for making derogatory comments about the martyrs of the Liberation War. On the same day, he was suspended from the post of GCC mayor.

The Daily Star Centre

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