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## Spread of Aedes in Dhaka city worrying

HELEMUL ALAM

A yet-to-be-released survey carried out by the health directorate gives a worrying picture of the spread of Aedes mosquito -- carrier of the virus responsible for dengue fever -- in Dhaka city.

The survey, conducted on 3,150 houses in 98 wards of the two city corporations between June 18 and 27, has found presence of Aedes mosquito larvae in 20 percent of houses under the Dhaka North City Corporation and 15 percent of houses under the Dhaka South City Corporation.

The larvae of Aedes mosquito were found in 549 of the total houses surveyed. Of them, over 43 percent are multi-storied apartment buildings and 21.41 percent are houses, according to the survey of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

"This is a matter of concern. The authorities concerned should immediately identify the breeding grounds and conduct drives," entomologist Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University told The Daily Star.

The survey comes at a time when deaths from dengue have been reported almost every day since June.

In the last 24 hours, four dengue patients died and 436 others were hospitalised, according to the DGHS.

Till yesterday morning this year, the total number of deaths in dengue rose to 56 while the total number of cases jumped to 9,193.

- Aedes larvae found in 20pc houses under DNCC
- Aedes larvae found in 15pc houses under DSCC
- 3,150 houses in Dhaka surveyed in June
- Four people died of dengue yesterday
- 56 people died this year so far

Of the total deaths, 34 people died in June.

According to a DGHS analysis on 50 dengue deaths, 62 percent of them are female and 38 percent are male. The age group that saw the highest -- 60.80 percent -- number of deaths is between 19 and 50 years.

The DGHS analysis has also found that 80 percent of the deaths happened within three days after the patients were admitted to a hospital.

Stagnant water collected in any container or place is the breeding ground for Aedes mosquito.

Dr Md Ekramul Haque, deputy programme manager of malaria and AITD control programme at the DGHS, said the health directorate issued letters to all the hospitals across the country to take preparation for dengue management.

Referring to the survey, he said the Average Breteau Index (BI) was found to be over 20 in over 40 wards of the two city corporations, which means those wards are most at risk.

The BI is defined as the number of mosquito-positive containers found in every 100 houses inspected in a given area. The BI of an area over 20 means the area is at high risk of dengue infection.

Among the positive wet containers which are found in the houses, the highest 14.54 percent are found in buildings where stagnant water is collected due to rain or other reasons, 9.28 percent in plastic buckets and 8.73 percent in plastic drums, said Haque.

Putting stress on awareness building, entomologist Kabirul Bashar said the dwellers should play a vital role in destroying breeding sources of Aedes mosquito in their

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People wade through ankle-deep water on a road in Dawkalash of Sunamganj's Shantiganj upazila yesterday. The hoar area was under water on Friday due to torrential rain.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## DELEGATES' VISITS BNP thinks they'll mount pressure on government

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

US and EU delegates' upcoming visits to Bangladesh will be crucial as they are likely to exert pressure on the government to hold free and fair polls, the BNP believes.

The delegates are likely to hold meetings with political parties and civil society members where the issue of the next election is likely to be discussed.

US Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights Uzra Zeya is scheduled to visit Dhaka next week while US Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Jose Fernandez is supposed to arrive in the third week of this month.

Two delegations of the

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## Exports bring home record \$55.56b in FY23

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Exports fetched a record \$55.56 billion in fiscal 2022-23 amid challenging conditions at home and abroad, in what can be viewed as one of the few bright sparks in the economy at present.

The receipts are an increase of 6.67 percent from a year earlier thanks, in part, to a strong showing in June, which saw \$5.03 billion fly in, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau.

"This is satisfactory growth considering the high inflation-led low demand in our main export destinations of Europe and North America," said Tapan Kanti Ghosh, senior secretary of the commerce ministry.

However, fiscal 2022-23's takings fell short of the \$58 billion export target set for the fiscal year.

"It is an outstanding achievement considering the expectations at the beginning of the fiscal year as the economies of the major export destinations were grappling with a slowdown and high inflation," said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

At home, the exporters had to contend with low gas pressure and load shedding, both of which hampered production.

"Despite all those problems, exports grew by close to 7 percent, which is a remarkable feat," Hussain added.

Of the sum, garments, which shoulder the lion's share of the export-earning burden, raked \$46.99 billion, up 10.27 percent year-on-year, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau. It also earned \$191.61 million more than the target.

Almost all garment-exporting countries performed badly last year as the major importing countries like the US, the EU, Canada, the UK and Australia cut back on their purchases for inflation, said Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

The demand for Bangladeshi-made garment items is resilient as they retail at low to average price points, according to exporters.

But Bangladesh performed comparatively better thanks to the shipment of more value-added items, higher exports to new

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## Martinez's brief stopover leaves fans wanting more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Emiliano Martinez's brief stopover in Dhaka yesterday created quite a buzz among the host of Argentina fans in the country, but also left people with a sense of disappointment due to the short nature of the visit and heavy security protocols.

Argentina's World Cup-winning goalkeeper

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Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez hands over Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a jersey during his visit to the PMO yesterday. Former national cricket team captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, top, and his children click a selfie with the Argentine football icon, who left Dhaka in the afternoon following a brief visit.

PHOTO: PID/COLLECTED

**MORE NEWS**

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In loving memory of  
**Major T I M Nurun Nabi (Retd)**  
A Year of Fond Remembrance

Remembering a devoted husband, cherished father, adored grandfather, and beloved brother. Your love and wisdom continue to inspire us every day. We humbly seek prayers and well wishes for his eternal peace. Forever in our hearts, forever missed. May Allah SWT forgive us all and raise him to Jannatul Ferdous.

13/05/1951 - 04/07/2022

Fondly remembered by Shamima Nabi (wife), Shaniur T I M Nabi (son), Nabila Nabi (daughter), Naveed Rahman (son-in-law), Shaan Sadiq Nabi (grandson), Abu Khair Mohammed Sakhawat (brother), Shawkat Shamim (brother)

## Couple, baby 'forcibly disappeared'

CTTC shows them arrested 'a month later'

ZYMA ISLAM

A madrasa teacher, his wife and their six-month-old son were allegedly forcibly disappeared for a month before being produced in a Dhaka court in a case.

Ikramul Haque Milan, 28, his wife Dewan Faria Afrin Anika, 21, and their son were picked up from Mymensingh on April 30 around 6:30pm.

This is according to a complaint filed by Ikramul's brother Imdadul Haque Imon with the officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station in Mymensingh on May 1.

The complaint states that the couple and their baby boy were traveling from their home in Borochar to Sankipara on a rickshaw which was intercepted by a Toyota Hiace van in front of Noyonmoni market.

The van had a police sticker on it, states the complaint.

Witnesses told local human rights activists that two men and a woman dressed in white shoved the trio into the van. The couple's mobile phones were found turned off from that moment on.

Their bags, including the baby's diaper bag, were found at the scene by Imdadul, but a laptop with its bag which was being carried by Ikramul was missing.

Ikramul is a teacher at Faridabad madrasa in Sutrapur.

His family members claimed they tried to file a general diary with the police station but were denied.

While the family looked high and low for the trio, they were produced before a Dhaka court on May 31, a day after they were shown arrested in a case filed with Dhaka's Shabujbagh Police Station for being members of banned militant outfit Ansar-al-Islam.

The first information report of the case states that they couple was picked up from a playground in the capital's Sabujbagh during a raid that day.

Ikramul was remanded for three days, while Anika and her baby were sent to prison.

The family told this correspondent that they could learn about the trio's whereabouts because Anika was allowed to get in touch with her family after her baby's feeding bottle broke.

Ikramul's father later applied to the court to be granted custody of the baby and the court granted him the permission. The baby was brought home from Kashimpur Women's Central Jail on May 8.

SM Nazmul Haque, deputy commissioner of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, denied the allegation of enforced disappearance.

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