

Dengue cases shoot up in July

Experts urge hotspot management, awareness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 449 more people diagnosed with dengue yesterday, the total number of patients rose to 17,831; 9,853 of which were recorded in the last 14 days.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, 93 persons have died due to dengue this year so far, 46 of whom died this month.

A total of 1,035 people were infected with dengue in May, while 5,956 more cases were recorded in June. The number of dengue deaths were 34 and two, respectively.

Experts have urged the authorities concerned to conduct extensive drives to identify Aedes mosquitoes clusters as soon as possible.

Stressing the need for hotspot management, entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University urged initiating drives in areas where dengue infection rate is dominant.

"Killing adult mosquitoes is essential in those areas as they are most likely to be carrying the viral infection. Each of us should take the responsibility of searching for stagnant water sources around

residences, especially open spaces and yards, at least once every week, to keep those from becoming Aedes breeding grounds," he said.

Hospitalisation is necessary when infected for the second time, as these patients are more vulnerable, he added.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, advised residents to keep windows and doors shut in the morning and evening, as Aedes mosquitoes are normally active during these periods.

"People should get tested as soon as they show early symptoms of the disease, which include fever, severe stomach ache, nausea, difficulty breathing, and blood in nose, gums, vomit, or stool. Repellents may prove to be beneficial," he added.

According to Nazmul Ahsan, there is a high possibility of a patient reaching a critical stage within 24-48 hours of showing these signs. However, immediate treatment can help most patients if hospitalised on time.

"Patients suffering from cardiac, kidney,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Bilkis was having a hard time controlling Junayed. The seven-month-old kept on smiling and tried to jump out of her arms. Seeing his excitement, the mother also began to smile. But it was more of a relief as Junayed will be discharged from Mugda General Hospital today after being diagnosed with dengue. The family came to a relative's house in Dhaka's Jatrabari from Barishal on July 9 and Junayed was infected with the virus the next day.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

RAMPAL PLANT HC orders to detain coal carrying vessel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued an order for the detention of the MV Panagia Kanala, a commercial vessel bearing the flag of Liberia.

The ship arrived at Mongla Sea Port on Thursday, carrying a substantial cargo of 31,000 tonnes of coal from Indonesia, destined for the Rampal thermal power plant.

The court has also directed the Mongla Sea Port Authority to refrain from issuing a No Objection Certificate to the vessel until further notice.

The legal proceedings were set in motion as China's CCX Shipping Co lodged a claim for compensation amounting to Tk 2.99 crore against the vessel's owners.

The representative of the vessel, Abul Hasan, received the restraining order from Judge Khizir Ahmed Chowdhury, thereby halting any action related to the vessel, including unloading of the coal for Rampal.

Captain Shahadat Hossain, the deputy harbour master of Mongla

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

PRAYER TIMING
JULY 15

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:15	12:45	5:00	6:55	8:17
JAMAT	4:50	1:15	5:15	7:00
				8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BCL CENTRAL COMMITTEE

It's a DU show

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Dhaka University students have been selected for the majority of crucial positions in the central committee of the Awami League-backed student organisation, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

The newly announced 301-member committee highlights a stark contrast, as 226 members hail from Dhaka University, overshadowing their counterparts from other universities.

Only two were incorporated in the central committee from Jahangirnagar University, while only one person each was made a member of the committee from the Rajshahi University, and Chittagong University.

Adnan Hossen is the lone person from Rajshahi University to get posted in the central executive committee. He has been made assistant secretary.

The only person who has been incorporated in the central committee from Chittagong University is Quazi Noor Un-Nabi. He was made deputy mass education affairs secretary, which is deemed a less significant post in BCL.

Deprived students have expressed their grievances saying that it does not look like the central committee of Chhatra League rather the DU central committee.

They also alleged that only a handful of leaders outside DU, have been given the major posts like vice-president, organising secretary and joint general secretary.

After analysing the central committee, it was found that out of 71 vice-president post, 57 are held by either current or former students of DU and only 14 are from

different units of the student's body. All the 22 organising and joint general secretaries are DU students.

When it comes to insignificant posts like assistant secretary or general member, the picture is quite the opposite. Most of the aspirants who are not DU students have been incorporated into those posts.



The newly announced 301-member BCL committee highlights a stark contrast, as 226 members hail from DU, overshadowing their counterparts from other universities. Only two were incorporated in the central committee from JU and one each from RU and CU.

Of the 18 persons who got assistant secretary posts, 13 are from other educational institutions.

"There are many leaders from Jahangirnagar University who are capable of holding major posts in the central committee, but we have been deprived. We also became victims of such injustice

in past committees," a top leader of JU unit BCL told The Daily Star wishing anonymity.

This has been a common practice when forming full-fledged committees where the DU students posts and aspirants from other educational institutions were largely overlooked, he further said.

In the last two committees of BCL's central executive unit, over 230 leaders were either former or current students of DU, as per the BCL office.

"We have seen this trend earlier too. But we have nowhere to go and no one to complain to," said Durjoy Chakraborty, a vice-president of Chittagong University unit BCL.

Around seven months after announcing the names of president and general secretary, BCL's full-fledged committee was announced.

On December 20 last year, AL general secretary Obaidul Quader announced the central committee with Saddam Hossain as president and Sheikh Wali Asif Inan as general secretary.

Also, eight new secretary-level posts have been added to the central committee, keeping the total number of members unchanged.

Saddam could not be contacted for comments.

When asked about the issue, BCL central committee general secretary Sheikh Wali Asif Inan evaded the question.

He said, "The allegations are baseless. I am not from Dhaka. I am from Jhalakathi. The president is also not from the capital, he is from Panchagarh. We try to ensure that we have representatives from all the corners of the country. We do not put emphasis on who belongs to which university."



Memorial event on Rokia Afzal Rahman today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The life and spirit of pioneering businesswoman Rokia Afzal Rahman will be remembered today at a commemorative programme hosted by her family.

Titled "Remembering Rokia Afzal Rahman: The Fearless Spirit", the programme will take place at the Grand Ballroom, Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in the capital from 3:30pm onwards.

A champion of women's entrepreneurship, Rokia passed away at the Mt Elizabeth Novena Hospital in Singapore on April 5 at the age of 82.

She undertook various initiatives in different sectors including media, insurance, real estate, and financial institute, leaving a lasting legacy.

She was the chairperson of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of The Daily Star, and a director of Mediastar Limited, the owning company of Prothom Alo.

In 2001, she became an adviser to the now abolished caretaker government.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

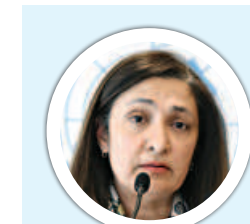
'Let the people of Bangladesh decide'

US under secy Uzra Zeya says Washington's objective is to support 'free, fair, and peaceful' polls

UNB, Dhaka

US Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya has urged political parties in Bangladesh to reject violence and support a genuinely peaceful democratic process that allows people to choose their own leaders.

"Well, I think one message I would underscore is urging all parties to reject violence, and to support a genuinely inclusive, peaceful, free, and fair democratic process. Let's let the people of Bangladesh decide," she told UNB in an exclusive interview before wrapping up her two-and-a-half-day visit to Bangladesh.



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Zeya made it clear that the US' objective is to support elections in Bangladesh that are "free, fair, and peaceful".

On the other hand, she said the questions of a caretaker government, or a boycott, are "internal matters" for the people of Bangladesh. "We don't see a role for the United States. And I just want to underscore the final point that we do not take sides between political parties."

During her meetings in Dhaka, Zeya emphasised the importance of working together to achieve Bangladesh's goal of free and fair elections; the crucial role of civil society, rights defenders, journalists, and labour activists; accountability for human rights abuses; and the need to continue support for Rohingya refugees.

LIFTING SANCTIONS

With respect to the sanctions that were imposed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Repeal DSA

Demand journos at human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists yesterday once again demanded the repeal of the Digital Security Act, saying the law is being used to harass them and suppress freedom of expression.

They made the demand at a human chain formed at the capital's Karwan Bazar roundabout, protesting a case filed under DSA against RTV journalist Yeasmein Akter Adhora for her reporting on "misdeed of a syndicate of Pirs".

One Shakerul Kabir filed the case with a Chattogram court against Adhora and another person on May 13. But the incident came to light on July 10 after Rafiqul Islam, the case's investigating officer, informed the TV channel about it through a letter.

Speaking at yesterday's protest, the journalist leaders demanded withdrawal of the case against Adhora. They also demanded action against the "pir syndicate" instead of harassing journalists for unearthing crimes.

Sohel Haider Chowdhury, president of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), expressed frustration and dissatisfaction over filing the case against journalists under DSA.

It is being noticed that cases are being filed against journalists one after another at a time when there is talk of amendment of the law, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Demanding repeal of the Digital Security Act, journalists form a human chain at the capital's Karwan Bazar roundabout yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

At least give us a chance to survive

RMG workers demand Tk 25,000 per month as minimum salary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sabina Yasmin was forced to take up a job as a garment worker after her father, the only breadwinner of her family, was paralysed.

The 24-year-old resident of Jirani Bazar started working at a factory in Gazipur with a salary of Tk 8,000. "I have parents and two siblings. With this meagre income, it's a constant struggle to put food on the table, let alone fulfil other requirements of my five-member family," said Sabina while sharing her life's struggles at a programme of garment workers in front of the National Museum at the capital's Shahbagh intersection yesterday.

The speakers at the programme, organised by the Bangladesh Garments Sramik Sanghati, demanded a minimum salary of Tk 25,000 per month for the RMG workers to give them a chance to cope with the rising inflation.

The garment workers and leaders said the government raised the minimum monthly pay for garment workers to Tk 8,000 in 2018, which has not been changed since, even though inflation has increased the price of essentials.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6