

DENGUE OUTBREAK BNP blames govt, declares 3-point programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Blaming the ruling party for its failure to tackle the dengue outbreak, the BNP has announced a three-point programme to prevent the disease from spreading further.

The programme will begin in Dhaka with a campaign to raise awareness among city dwellers about Aedes mosquitoes and their breeding grounds in every ward of Dhaka city.

BNP leaders Tabith Awal and Ishraque Hossain, both of whom contested the last mayoral elections in Dhaka North and South, announced the programme from a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan Office yesterday.

According to them, the party will set up an online blood donating platform through which "any willing donor, including the BNP activists who are willing to donate blood, can contact people who need blood using the website."

Thirdly, mosquito nets will be given away to people in low-income areas of the city so that they can protect themselves from mosquitoes.

If we can make the people aware enough without scaring them, it will go a long way in fighting Aedes mosquitoes, said Tabith, adding that the awareness-raising activities will be conducted through social media campaign and direct public awareness programmes.

The seasonal dengue has now become a year-round menace due to the continuous negligence of the two Dhaka city corporations.

"The city has turned into a sanctuary for Aedes mosquitoes. The city of possibilities, with all its citizens full of life, is now in constant fear of death from mosquito bites," Tabith observed.

Blaming the rise of dengue on a lack of a coordinated, effective and long-term plan for containing dengue, the BNP leader also said if the number of cases continues to increase at the current rate during the rainy season, dengue can very quickly become an epidemic.

"However, as representatives of the people and as activists of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party BNP, we believe it is our duty to always stand by the people with different initiatives," Tabith said.

The leaders also demanded that the two city corporations take "some effective initiatives" to save Dhaka dwellers from dengue. Among the initiatives, they put special emphasis on the following:

"The city corporation and the government must take responsibility for treating dengue patients. They must provide free medical care to dengue patients in dedicated and

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A view shows barley and damaged truck where a grain warehouse was destroyed by a Russian missile strike at a compound of an agricultural company in the village of Pavlivka, in Odesa region, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

END OF BLACK SEA GRAIN DEAL

Many may die: UN

Russia hits Ukraine's grain for 4th day, holds live fire exercise at sea

REUTERS, Kyiv

The spike in grain prices in the days since Russia quit a deal allowing the safe Black Sea export of Ukraine grain "potentially threatens hunger and worse for millions of people," the United Nations' aid chief told the Security Council yesterday.

Russia quit the Black Sea grain deal on Monday, saying that demands to improve its own food and fertilizer exports had not been met and complaining that not enough Ukrainian grain had reached poor countries.

US wheat futures in Chicago rose over six percent this week and had their biggest daily gain on Wednesday since Russia invaded Ukraine, but pared some of those gains on Friday in part due to hopes Russia may resume talks on the deal.

"Higher prices will be most acutely felt by families in developing countries," Martin Griffiths told the 15-member body, adding that currently some 362 million people in 69 countries were in need of humanitarian aid.

"Some will go hungry, some will starve, many may die as a result of these decisions," he said.

The deal was brokered a year ago by

the United Nations and Turkey to combat a global food crisis worsened by Russia's February 2022 invasion. Ukraine and Russia are leading grain exporters.

The UN argued that the Black Sea deal had benefited poorer countries by helping lower food prices more than 23 percent globally. The UN World Food Programme also shipped some 725,000 metric tons

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of Ukraine grain to aid operations in Afghanistan, Djibouti Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

But Mikhail Khan, a macroeconomist who Russia asked to brief the Security Council, said the poorest countries had received just three percent of the grain.

"The qualitative assessment of the impact of the grain deal in terms of provisions of Ukrainian grain to global markets is essentially not very significant," he said.

Russia pounded Ukrainian food export facilities for a fourth day in a row on Friday and practiced seizing ships in the

Black Sea. Moscow has described the port attacks as revenge for a Ukrainian strike on Russia's bridge to Crimea on Monday.

"The new wave of attacks on Ukrainian ports risks having far-reaching impacts on global food security, in particular, in developing countries," UN political affairs chief Rosemary DiCarlo told the Security Council.

Russia has said it would now view any ships traveling to Ukraine's Black Sea ports as possibly carrying military cargoes. Kyiv responded by announcing similar measures against vessels bound for Russia or Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory.

DiCarlo said those threats were "unacceptable."

"Any risk of conflict spillover as a result of a military incident in the Black Sea – whether intentional or by accident – must be avoided at all costs, as this could result in potentially catastrophic consequences to us all," she said.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan hopes to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin next month and said those talks could lead to restoration of the Black Sea grain deal, calling on Western countries to consider Russia's demands, Turkish broadcasters reported yesterday.

Netrakona-4 by-polls: Sajjadul gets AL ticket

STAFF REPORTER

Former senior secretary at the Prime Minister's Office Sajjadul Hasan has got the Awami League nomination for the by-election in Netrakona-4.

The party yesterday picked its candidate for the by-polls at a meeting of its Parliamentary Nomination Board held at Gono Bhaban with party President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

"Sajjadul Hasan has been unanimously nominated by the Awami League at our party's nomination board meeting," AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader told the media following the meeting.

Sajjadul Hasan is a member of the information and research affairs sub-committee of the Awami League central committee. His father late Akhlakul Hossain Ahmed was a companion of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The by-polls for the Netrokona-4 parliamentary seat, which fell vacant following the death of its previous incumbent, Rebecca Momin, is set to be held on September 2.

Two girls drown in the Padma

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Two girls drowned in the Padma river in Sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Reshma Khatun, 7, daughter of Rehshan Ali of Sonaptri village in Sadar upazila and Moslema Khatun, 15, daughter of Gumani Haque of Katapara village in the same upazila, reports our local correspondent, quoting fire service officials and locals.

Fariduddin, station officer of Chapainawabganj Fire Station, said Moslema and Reshma went missing while bathing in the Padma river at Malbagdanga village around 11:30am. Later, locals recovered Reshma's body around 12:00pm.

On information, a team of divers from the Fire Service and Civil Defence recovered the body of Moslema from the river around 4:00pm, said the official.

Two siblings die from electrocution in Kurigram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two siblings have died by electrocution at Phulbari upazila in Kurigram.

The accident took place at Sonaikazi village of Shimulbari union in Phulbari upazila at around 8:00pm on Thursday night.

The deceased – Tofayel Hossain Babu (11) and Seba Khatun (4) – are children of Sakimuddin of Sonaikazi village.

Family members said that the two were electrocuted by touching the auto-rickshaw charger at home. When they were brought to the Phulbari Hospital, the doctor on duty declared them dead.

Phulbari police station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Pranakrishna Debnath confirmed the incident and said that an unnatural death case has been filed in the police station in this regard.

AL's peace

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He said, "The BNP's only demand is Sheikh Hasina's resignation which is contradictory to the constitution. We cannot go against the constitution. We will conduct our elections according to the constitution."

"Awami League leaders and activists are being killed. And the BNP is habitually misleading the nation with baseless information," Quader said.

"The BNP is trying to attract the attention of foreigners by staging isolated incidents. It is hatching conspiracies to foil the election."

Regarding the attack on Hero Alom during the Dhaka-17 by-election, Quader said, "So far 10 people have been arrested in connection with the incident. The government has taken action."

AL presidium members Matia Chowdhury, Kazi Zafar Ullah, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Md Qamrul Islam, Joint General Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim, organizing secretaries Afzal Hossain and Abu Saeed Al Mahmud Swapan and Science and Technology Affairs Secretary Md Abdus Sabur joined the meeting among others.

BNP to urge

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enforced disappearance victim, and one who had been fired from a government job.

"The city will be the city of youths as tens of thousands will take part in the rally," Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, president of Jubo Dal, told journalists after visiting the venue.

He said over 4.70 crore people are young voters and they were deprived of their right to vote.

"Young and meritorious people are not getting jobs. If the administration is run by the party loyal men, then the administration will surely collapse. We took to the streets to establish the rights of the youth," Tuku said.

On June 2, three BNP associate bodies announced youth rallies in Chattogram, Bogura, Khulna, Barishal, Sylhet, and Dhaka to drum up the support of the young generation for the BNP's movement.

Missing son returned home after 21 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Bangladeshi national was returned from India through Banglabandha land port in Panchagarh yesterday, 21 years after he went missing.

Matiur Rahman, 36, of Akhanagar-Debiduba village in Thakurgaon's Sadar upazila, went missing in 2002 while he was 15 years old, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent quoting Matiur's father Sahidul Islam.

After failing to find him, they filed a general diary with Thakurgaon Police Station in this regard.

Indian immigration police formally handed Matiur over to Banglabandha Immigration police yesterday afternoon, said Khairul Islam, assistant sub-inspector of Banglabandha police.

Indian social worker Nitish Sharma said Matiur was rescued by Shradddha Rehabilitation Foundation in India in a disoriented state from a road in Karjat area of India's Maharashtra in June, 2019 and brought him to its custody.

Matiur was diagnosed as a patient of schizophrenia, said Nitish.

Later, the foundation identified the boy through Noakhali Gandhi



Matiur's parents hug him on his return to the country at Banglabandha yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Ashram Trust in Bangladesh and started the procedure of his return.

What happened to Matiur before that and how he ended up in India remain a mystery.

Nitish Sharma further said she and Dr Swarali K Kondwilkar, a physician of the foundation, will stay at Matiur's house for 2/3 days for observation.

Matiur's mother Morjina Begum, expressing her gratitude, said she

always believed her son will return to her one day.

Saifun Nahar, younger sister of the youth, said her brother went missing when she was in class four and he was in class nine.

"After about two decades we got him back. I can't describe how joyous a day today is for us, our family. We are grateful to all who helped in his homecoming," added Nahar.

around 450 medicine beds, of which they have kept four wards dedicated to the dengue patients. They are also treating dengue patients at the general wards due to the huge number of patients.

He said they have prepared a guideline with three categories: A, B and C. The patients who are infected with dengue but stable and have no complications belong to group A. They send them back home and the rest belonging to the other two categories are admitted to the hospital, Nazmul said.

High price of coarse rice

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Since there is high demand for fine rice, millers polish coarse rice which creates a shortage in the supply, he said preferring to remain anonymous.

FISH AND VEGETABLE

There is no respite from the rising prices of fish and vegetables either.

Jitendra Das, a fish trader of Karwan Bazar, said the prices of fish usually rise during the rainy season when ponds in many places get flooded. This creates a shortage in the supply of farmed fish, which has a huge demand for low and middle-income people.

Fariduddin, a metal scrap trader in Karwan Bazar, said he earned Tk 500-600 per day.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult for me to cover my family expenses," he said while buying a Pangas fish.

Yesterday Pangas was sold at Tk 200-220 per kg and Tilapia at Tk

200-280 per kg. While, just a month ago, the same fish was at least Tk 50 cheaper per kg.

The price of however ilish dropped by Tk 100-150 to Tk 1,300-1,400 per kg.

Meanwhile, the price of vegetables has risen by Tk 5-10 per kg.

Traders said many low-lying fields went underwater because of heavy rains and as a result, the price of vegetables shot up.

In a week, the price of a spinach bundle increased by Tk 10-40.

Though the prices of potatoes and onions have decreased in the wholesale market by Tk 2 and Tk 6 per kg, it does not have any impact on the retail market.

A kg of potato is sold at Tk 40 and onion at Tk 70-80 in the retail market.

The price of lentils, oil, sugar, soap and flour however dropped slightly in the retail market.

PM calls for end to war in Ukraine

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destabilising effect on the world," she said.

The premier made this call while addressing a meeting of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) on Food, Energy and Finance through a videoconference from Gono Bhaban, her official residence.

Hasina said the war is not only destroying many lives in the conflict zone, but also is wreaking havoc on people across the globe.

She said conflict is raging on despite the need for an early solution. "In fact, newer sophisticated armaments of war are being introduced every day there bringing yet more destruction and causing severe adverse effects on people's lives all over the world," she said.

The premier said poverty and inequalities continue to sharply rise, and the debt burden for the poorer countries is swelling.

"These and other shocks have driven up the prices of food, energy, and other commodities across the world, causing delays in the progress

of Sustainable Development Goals," she said.

"During this time of growing instability, international cooperation is clearly vital to the vulnerable among the global community to build resilience against future shocks," she added.

The PM said factors that affect food price and access, such as export restrictions, stockpiling and supply chain distortions, must be addressed. On climate issue, the PM demanded concrete progress on the "Loss and Damage Fund. Also, developing countries should not be affected by the proposed carbon levy in the shipping sector, she added.

The GCRG was set up by the UNSG in March 2022 to address urgent and critical global issues pertaining to interlinked crises in food security, energy, and finance and to coordinate a global response. The GCRG is overseen by the Champions Group comprising the head of state or the head of government of Bangladesh, Barbados, Denmark, Germany, Indonesia and Senegal.