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NATIONAL MOURNING DAY

Little progress in bringing 5 fugitive killers back

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government's efforts to bring back the five fugitive killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the country have yet to see any significant and visible progress.

In the meantime, 14 years have passed since the trial proceedings of the Bangabandhu assassination case were completed.

The government has even failed to constitute a commission to unravel the identities of the conspirators behind the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members on August 15, 1975, although it announced the plan to form it a few years back.

Amid this situation, the nation will observe National Mourning Day today.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on November 19, 2009 upheld a High Court verdict that confirmed death sentences of 12 people, including the five absconding killers, for the assassination of the Father of the Nation.

The five convicted killers, who remain fugitives, are Col (dismissed) Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Lt Col (relieved) Shariful Haque Dalmaj, Maj (retd) Noor Chowdhury, Maj (retd) Rashed Chowdhury and

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'We see all parties the same way'

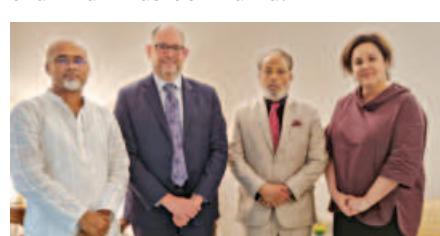
Says Peter Haas at meeting with Jatiya Party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Peter Haas yesterday said the US wants to see a free, fair and credible election in Bangladesh so that people's aspirations are fulfilled.

"No party is our enemy. We see all the parties the same way..." said Peter Haas.

He said this while holding a meeting with Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader and international affairs adviser to the JP chairman Masroor Mawla.

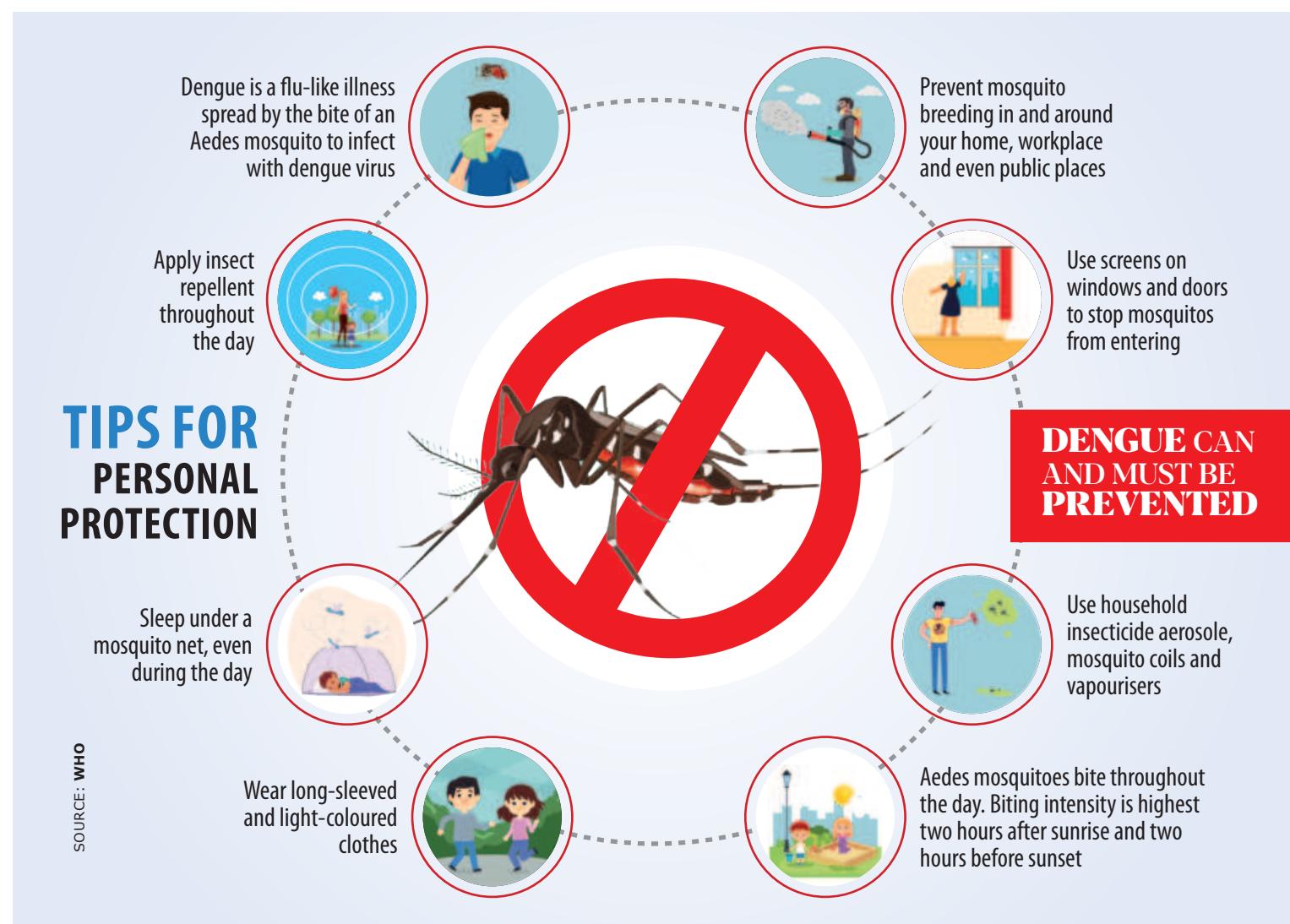


The meeting was held at Masroor's Gulshan residence from 3:00pm to 4:00pm.

Masroor said the envoy wanted to know the thoughts of the main opposition party regarding the upcoming national election.

"In reply, we told him that at present we are thinking about participating in all the 300 constituencies. We are not

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Dengue death toll crosses 400

Intermittent rain to worsen situation, say experts

HELEMUL ALAM

heavy rain, two days of moderate rain and five days of light rain since August 1.

The department also forecasts light to moderate rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind in most areas of Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions; at multiple places over Dhaka, Mymensingh and Khulna divisions, and at a few places in Rajshahi

According to entomologists, accumulated water might lead to new breeding grounds if people fail to remain vigilant.

However, heavy rains may also damage eggs and increase the chances of Aedes mosquito larvae being washed out.

Experts urged the authorities concerned to conduct an anti-mosquito drive and initiate cleaning activities to destroy all breeding sources.

Amid such concerns, 18 more dengue patients died and 2,480 were hospitalised across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning, said DGHS.

With the new figures, the total number of dengue deaths rose to 416 while that of cases this year stood at 87,891.

Meanwhile, 21-millimeter rainfall was recorded in Dhaka in the last 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

According to BMD, the capital saw four days of heavy rain, three days of moderately

heavy rain, two days of moderate rain and five days of light rain since August 1.

The department also forecasts light to moderate rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind in most areas of Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions; at multiple places over Dhaka, Mymensingh and Khulna divisions, and at a few places in Rajshahi

"This weather may lead to an increase in breeding sources as city corporations cannot conduct anti-mosquito drives during rain. The medicines will become diluted and ineffective," he said.

Advising the city corporations to conduct drives in basements, Saiful said,

"The figures provided by the authorities are not right as they only record cases of patients who have been admitted to different hospitals."

Around 80 percent patients remain asymptomatic and are also spreading dengue, but they are not being identified as there is no serosurveillance (an application of serology testing, which is a test performed on blood to detect the presence of antibodies). The authorities are also deferring from providing area-wise information in this regard, keeping people in the dark, he added.

Mohammad Kholilur Rahman, former chief entomologist at DHGS, said heavy rain will reduce dengue infections initially, but the rate of infection will increase after a couple of weeks if the sources are not destroyed.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar called for a collaborative effort by the authorities and locals to combat the situation.

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EGG PRICE HIKE

27 wholesalers fined over Tk 12 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday conducted mobile court drives in kitchen markets of four Dhaka areas and fined 34 businesses Tk 14.25 lakh for malpractice.

The fines were slapped for the offenses of selling essential goods at a higher price and not having a price list as per sections 38, 45 and 52 of the Consumer Rights Protection Act 2009, according to a Rab-1 press release.

The mobile courts conducted day-long drives at Kaptan Bazar in Old Dhaka, and other kitchen markets in Badda, Wari and Jatrabari areas since the morning, said Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing.

A mobile court of Rab-10 conducted raids on egg vendors in Kaptan Bazar, Wari, and Jatrabari

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Even cracked eggs get costlier!

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MASHFIQ MIZAN

Nasima Begum, a 35-year-old mother of four, is a regular customer of Fakinni Bazar (a market for ultra poor), located along the rail tracks under Bijoy Sarani Tejgaon Flyover.

"I could at best afford to buy a bundle of eight eggs weekly. But the recent hikes made that impossible. So I have resorted to buying cracked eggs for my family as they cost less," said Nasima, whose husband is a rickshaw puller.

However, Nasima was shocked when she saw that even the price of cracked eggs had also risen by a good Tk 15 per bundle of four pieces within just a week's time.

"Four cracked eggs cost at least Tk 40 now, it was Tk 25 last week," she mentioned.

Meanwhile, the price of a bundle of four regular eggs rose by Tk 10 simultaneously, costing



Tk 60 from Tk 50.

"Where would we go if even cracked eggs get costlier? How do I feed my children?" said Nasima, who is now worried as she is running out of ways to make both ends meet with their limited income.

Nasima was among at least 10 customers who resorted to buying cracked eggs and spoke to this reporter during his visit to the bazaar on Saturday night. All of them shared similar stories of empty wallets and cracked eggs.

"When the price of regular eggs rises, the demand for cracked eggs goes up as they cost less, which ultimately results in the

cracked eggs becoming costlier too," said Idris Ali, who has been selling eggs at the bazaar for the last nine years.

Also, cracked eggs are short in supply in the retail market, which is also contributing to the price hike. Besides, such eggs are only sold at a few places in the capital, making them somewhat rare, he mentioned.

"Previously, I sold 200-300 cracked eggs in a day. However, despite the increased demand, I'm now selling around 150-200 such eggs due to a supply crunch," he added.

"The ultra poor, bachelors and students living in messes, and roadside restaurants are the regular buyers of cracked eggs. Since these eggs cannot be boiled, they are used for making omelets," he noted.

Shah Alam, another egg seller at the market, echoed the same.

He said three types of cracked eggs are available in the bazaar.

"Some have no leaks. They are taped and sold for Tk 40 per bundle of four at present. The price was Tk 25-30 a week ago," he said.

Four pieces of the ones that

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'We want an end to seat crisis'

Students of DU female dorm protest in front of VC residence

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of female students of Kuwait Maitree Hall at Dhaka University yesterday staged a sit-in in front of the vice chancellor's residence, protesting seat crisis at the dormitory.

Students withdrew their protest around 10:40pm last night after the vice chancellor assured them of meeting their demands.

They got the assurance after they blocked the VC's vehicle from entering his residence for around 30 minutes.

Earlier, the students demanded that the DU authorities have to move at least 300 students from the hall to other

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