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Flu, waterborne disease worsening dengue situation

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

While the country's health services are already struggling to cope with the dengue influx, other viral fevers and waterborne diseases are further aggravating the situation.

Doctors advised all to exercise caution while consuming water and fluids like juices from outside as these can be the origin of waterborne diseases like cholera, diarrhoea, typhoid, amebiasis, hepatitis, and gastrointestinal complications.

Brig Gen Quazi Md Rashid-Un-Nabi, director of Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital, said 30 to 40 percent of their outdoor patients are coming with fever, most of them with viral fever apart from dengue.

He said the number of patients with dengue is now slightly decreasing but those of other viral fever are high.

"Of the patients coming to the hospital, around 50 percent have influenza-like illnesses and waterborne diseases other than dengue," said HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

He said around 5 to 10 percent of patients are coinfecting with dengue and other diseases like pneumonia, typhoid or urinary tract infection.

These patients are in a risky group and need hospitalisation, he said.

Coinfection is suspected when a dengue patient does not recover within a week; then prompt steps are necessary, Nazmul Ahsan added.

Meanwhile, at least nine dengue patients died, six of them in Dhaka city, in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning, according to Directorate General of Health Services.

The total number of deaths from dengue rose to 435

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A volunteer distributing leaflets to people to aware them of the alarming dengue situation. The campaign is initiated by Dhaka North City Corporation in collaboration with Red Cross Society and IFRC. The photo was taken yesterday on Ring Road in the capital's Mohammadpur.

Let Khaleda go abroad for treatment

BNP warns of tougher programmes if demand not met

STAR REPORT

BNP yesterday threatened to announce tougher programmes if the government does not allow its ailing party chief Khaleda Zia to go abroad for advanced treatment.

"The people of Bangladesh will not remain silent if steps are not taken immediately to ensure the treatment of our leader Begum Khaleda Zia abroad," said BNP senior leader Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury.

Speaking at a milad and doa mahfil, the BNP leader also said their party has a scheduled protest programme on August 19. "Later, if necessary, tougher programmes can be announced demanding the treatment of our leader. Everyone must be ready for it," he said.

He also said Khaleda's life

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Laundering crores in name of online betting

Four agents of 'BetWinner' held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department of police claimed to have arrested four agents of online betting site "BetWinner" from different parts of the capital, for siphoning off crores of taka abroad.

CID's Cyber Police Centre arrested them from Tejgaon, Bangsal, Lalbagh, and Mirpur areas on Monday night, said Azad Rahman, additional superintendent (Media) of CID.

The arrestees are - Ariful Islam, 25, Anwar Hossain, 32, Harun Or Rashid, 37, and Imran Hossain, 29.

The CID said the BetWinner website is controlled mainly from Russia under the name of "Super Admin" or "Master Admin". Managers are appointed to look after various countries. The manager hires experts as gambling agents in Bangladesh. The arrestees are gambling agents.

The CID also seized 13 mobile phones, 18 SIM cards, Tk 7.67 lakh in e-balance and Tk 1.42 lakh in cash from the arrestees. A case was filed with Paltan Police Station yesterday under the Digital Security Act in this regard.

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These gambling agents then collaborate with local MFS agents for betting related money transactions.

The CID said two individuals, Samrat and Shaheen

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DSA CASE

Prothom Alo editor gets permanent bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted permanent bail to Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matuir Rahman in a case filed against him under the Digital Security Act.

Judge (in charge) Faisal Atiq Bin Kader of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Matuir's lawyer submitted an application, seeking permanent bail in the case.

After hearing both sides, the judge allowed the lawyer to submit a bail upon a bond of Tk 20,000 with two guarantors.

On April 2, the High Court granted a six-week anticipatory bail to Matuir

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Sheltering their little one with an umbrella, a family walks towards the Shishu Hospital amid rain in the capital yesterday. The photo was taken on the Agargaon-Shyamoli link road in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

2005 AUGUST 17 SERIES BLAST

JMB no longer a major threat

Say law enforcement agencies

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) hardly poses any security risks at this moment. However, it may attempt to reorganise in small factions, taking advantage of unstable political situations ahead of the national election, said officials engaged in countering militancy.

The outlawed group, now known as mainstream JMB, has no known leader in Bangladesh. Meanwhile, its strength has significantly weakened after many of its active members joined other militant groups. The outfit is also plagued with a shortage of funds required to reorganise it, the officials added.

An official of Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) made the apprehension

Following the August 17 attacks, 159 cases were filed against 256 named and many unnamed accused. Verdicts in 116 cases have been delivered in which 322 JMB militants were convicted.

If political situation gets unstable, JMB members may take advantage and try to reorganise again.

MM HASANUL JAHID
SP of ATU

as they have information that eight to 10 militants, including some who were accused of cases filed over the countrywide bombing in 2005, have gone off their radar after being freed on bail or serving jail terms.

JMB, founded in 1998 with an aim to establish an Islamic state in Bangladesh, grabbed the spotlight with a synchronised, countrywide bomb blast on this day (August 17) in 2005.

The group detonated 459 bombs in half an hour at 300 locations in 63 of the 64 districts.

Amid law enforcers' drive to arrest the group's kingpins and operatives, JMB targeted the country's judiciary - court buildings, judges, and government officials - with suicide attacks.

Following the August 17 attacks, 159 cases were filed against 256 named and many unnamed accused. Investigators pressed charges in 149 cases against 1,131 militants. Final reports were placed in the remaining 10 cases, according to Police Headquarters data.

Verdicts in 116 cases have been delivered, in which 322 JMB leaders and activists were convicted and 358 acquitted.

Trial of 43 cases are still pending with different courts, the data shows.

Md Asaduzzaman, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, said JMB is now facing an existential crisis.

"Its top leader Salahuddin alias Salehin, who is hiding abroad, at times tried to reorganise the group in Bangladesh, but could not succeed due to our intervention," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, said JMB is significantly weakened as many of its active members joined other militant organisations.

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Dhaka gets first EV charging station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's first electric vehicle (EV) charging station was installed in the capital's Tejgaon area yesterday.

"Ekhon Charge", an initiative by Progress Motors Imports Limited, installed the charging station in front of their office near the Nabisco area and announced plans to build 11 more stations by 2024.

Senior Secretary of the Power Division Md Habibur Rahman inaugurated the station.

Director (Finance) of Progress Motors, Md Hasib Uddin said a car will need only 20-30 minutes to fully charge with these charging points.

"On one full charge, a car would run for 500 kilometres. Bangladesh is an ideal country for these EVs because our maximum routes are not more

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Ruling party leader sues Jugantor editor, reporter

STAR REPORT

AKM Afzalur Rahman Babu, general secretary of Bangladesh Awami Swechchhasebak League, yesterday filed a Tk 50 crore defamation case against the editor and a reporter of the daily Jugantor for making "derogatory" remarks against him in a news item published on August 10.

The accused are Jugantor Editor Saiful Alam and its Cox's Bazar correspondent Md Jasim Uddin.

After the hearing, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ali Haider recorded statement of the complainant and issued summons asking the two accused to appear before it on September

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NIKO GRAFT CASE

Indictment hearing petition adjourned

STAR REPORT

The High Court yesterday adjourned hearing till August 21 on a petition filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, challenging a lower court order that framed charges against her and seven others in Niko corruption case.

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Aminul Islam heard arguments from Khaleda Zia's lawyers AJ Mohammad Ali and Kayser Kamal during proceedings.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin and Additional Attorney General Mohammad Mehedi

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