



QUALITY OF PRIMARY EDUCATION

Survey reveals grim picture

Majority of students fail to attain competence in maths, Bangla

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Over 60 percent of the third graders and 70 percent of the fifth graders don't have the proficiency in maths, appropriate for their grades, finds a government assessment depicting a grim picture of the quality of the country's primary education.

Besides, 51 percent of the third graders and 50 percent of the fifth graders lack grade-level competence in Bangla.

The National Student Assessment 2022 by the education directorate and Unicef says students in government and private schools are doing comparatively better than those in madrasas and NGO-run schools.

The students, who read different books as well as textbooks, perform significantly better than others, according to the survey on 25,480 students of class-III and 28,752 students of class-V from 1,483 schools across the country.

The findings were revealed at a discussion at a hotel in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

"The assessment portrays a dismal state of the quality of education. SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



This part of Bandarban-Thanchi road collapsed after a recent landslide due to torrential rain. Workers of the power department have been working to restore electricity supply to the area. The road communications between Bandarban and Thanchi remains snapped. The photo was taken in Parilpar area of Thanchi on Friday.

BRICS SUMMIT

PM may hold talks with Modi, Xi

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to hold separate meetings with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders during the BRICS summit from August 22 to 24.



The PM will travel to Johannesburg at the invitation of South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, the current president of the alliance comprised of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Presidents of South Africa and China, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and the Indian premier are expected SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Over 200 hurt in BNP-cops clash

Police fire rubber bullets, use tear gas to disperse BNP men during road march in three districts

STAR REPORT

More than 200 people were injured in clashes between law enforcers and BNP activists in Habiganj, Barguna, and Narayanganj yesterday.

The clashes took place when BNP activists took out road marches in the three districts, demanding the release of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia for treatment abroad.

In Habiganj, at least 150 people, including several policemen, were wounded at Shaestanagar in the town, reports UNB.

BNP leaders and activists from nine upazilas of the district started gathering near the house of GK Gaus, joint convener of district unit BNP and former municipal mayor, in the afternoon.

Around 5:00pm, the BNP activists began the march from the Shaestanagar Bazar area.

When they reached the Water Development Board office, police obstructed them. As the BNP men attempted to move forward, police responded with a baton charge, resulting in a clash.

During the chase and counter-chase, the BNP men threw brickbats at the police, who fired tear gas shells and rubber bullets.

Several cops, including OC Ajay Dev, were injured during the clash, Habiganj Police Station OC (Investigation) Badiuzzaman told UNB.

Meanwhile, GK Gaus said, "When we were going home after completing the march peacefully, police personnel, led by OC Ajay, attacked us, leaving 150 leaders and activists injured.

In Barguna, at least 50 BNP men SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

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AEDES CONTROL TO CURB DENGUE

'Unscientific methods are causing surge in cases'

Experts say as nearly 1 lakh infected this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities have failed to control Aedes mosquitoes as the activities taken up in this regard are unscientific, resulting in a surge in dengue cases across the country, a group of entomologists said yesterday.

They were speaking at a press conference, titled "Why this dengue epidemic? What's the solution?", organised by Bangladesh Vector

Management Group at the Cirdap Auditorium in Dhaka.

According to them, there is a need for a collaborative approach with the participation of city dwellers in order to bring the mosquito population under control.

Meanwhile, at least 13 more people died from dengue in the last 24 hours since 8:00am yesterday, taking the total number of fatalities to 466. At the SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

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Alarming trend of rising dengue cases!

Bangladesh is yet again experiencing a recurring outbreak of the dengue virus as the number of total reported death cases continue to increase!

Latest news reports and updates suggest that a total of 2,149 admissions have been recorded across the country's hospitals in past 24 hours (as on August 17, 2023) with patients diagnosed with Dengue Fever. Furthermore, 184 dengue-related fatalities have been recorded in the past 16 days of this ongoing month. Dhaka, as well as every region outside the capital, is battling against one of the worst dengue outbreaks as Bangladesh tries to cope against the unbridled rise and spread of this deadly virus. Reportedly, statistics show that the total number of dengue infected cases outside Dhaka region is expected to be higher, standing at 46,794 cases registered. Experts have also shared concerns over insights that suggest the likelihood of dengue outbreaks to be comparatively higher this year. The number of affected individuals is expected to increase too, potentially creating a fragile situation. One of the stronger contributing factors to this outbreak is the presence of stagnant water around various under-construction buildings, which serves as a breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes, responsible for the disease. This issue was reported by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) after a pre-monsoon review from March to April. The survey found three Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) wards to be at 'high risk' and ten at 'medium risk' of an outbreak. Nine wards in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) are at medium risk. Experts have asked authorities concerned to take immediate steps to address the matter. And not just dengue, mosquitoes can spread other deadly diseases like malaria and chikungunya.

The entire nation is trying to protect themselves from the attacks of these deadly mosquitoes at home, workplaces and outdoors. Not just Dhaka, mosquitoes have become a major concern for everyone all over the country. If the global pandemic Coronavirus were not enough, now these mosquito-related diseases have added more anxiety among people. Many specialists are saying the situation had never been this bad before. And it's getting worse over time. Never before have people suffered so much due to mosquitoes. Scattered constructions and crowded localities are often blamed for creating the breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The water bodies used for drainage for these sites have become extremely polluted, producing thousands of mosquitoes from the stagnant water. As there are no vaccines to such mosquito borne diseases, experts suggest that prevention is the best way to tackle this problem. Some of the best ways to protect oneself and loved ones are to make sure that there is no stagnant water or clogged drainage near our homes and to take preventative measures such as using coils, aerosols and mosquito nets when sleeping.

The nation is asking for viable solutions to this problem. We need to keep our localities clean and hygienic from dirt, garbage and stagnant water. But such actions require time, money and joint effort of many people. For the time being, people need instant safe solutions like mosquito repellents that don't have any harmful side effects on health or skin. The fight against mosquitoes and the deadly diseases is not an easy one. But we believe that like always, we shall overcome this crisis too, protecting ourselves and our loved ones.

Source: The Daily Star, August 15, 2023
Prothom Alo, August 17, 2023

Introducing a new way of protection against mosquitoes!

Vaseline Mosquito Defence Lotion Mosquito Repellent

This new lotion protects you and your family from mosquitoes that carry diseases like dengue, chikungunya and malaria. It is infused with Vaseline Jelly that protects your skin from dryness. The lotion is safe and the light formulation makes it easy to apply on skin.

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