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**Indigo farming showing promise**



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**Babar pumped up for 'high intensity' clash**



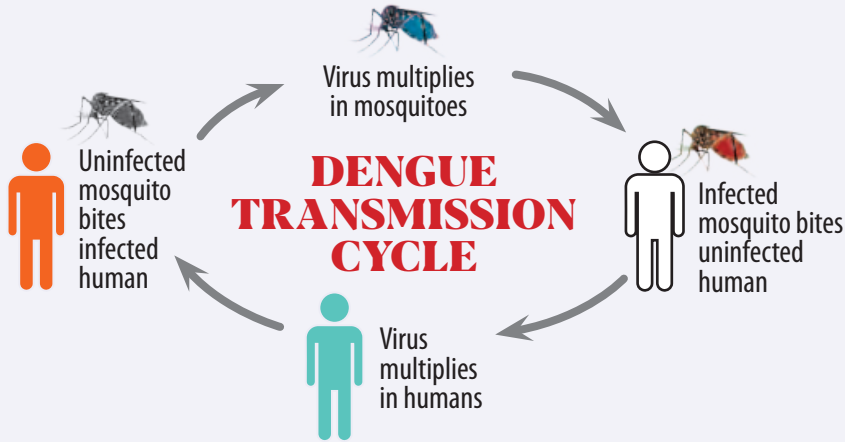
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**US approves first arms to Taiwan**



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**Lone school on verge of collapse in Bajra**



BOTCHED DENGUE RESPONSE

## Where does the fault lie?

HELEMUL ALAM and DIPAN NANDY

2019 was a watershed for dengue, with the highest number of cases ever reported globally. For Bangladesh too, it was a loud wake-up call, with record caseload and deaths. But the government continued with its slumber.

The local government, rural development and co-operatives minister and the two Dhaka mayors, however, maintain they have done enough. And yet, the Aedes aegypti mosquito, the primary vector for dengue, is having its most successful outing, already besting its 2019 record, thanks to insufficient preparedness.

A complete lack of planning, coordination and accountability among the government bodies has emerged as the narrative of Bangladesh's fight against

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DENGUE SCOURGE (BANGLADESH)		
YEAR	CASELOAD	DEATHS
2010	409	0
2011	1,359	6
2012	671	1
2013	1,749	2
2014	375	0
2015	3,162	6
2016	6,060	14
2017	2,769	8
2018	10,148	26
2019	101,354	179
2020	1,405	7
2021	28,429	105
2022	62,382	281
2023*	123,808	593

\*AS OF AUG

OVER 3.7M CASES, 2,000 DEATHS IN 70 COUNTRIES AS OF AUG 23		
COUNTRY	CASELOAD	DEATHS
India (July 31)	31,464	36
Thailand (Aug 23)	73,979	68
Afghanistan (July 8)	425	1
Malaysia (Aug 31)	79,415	55
Singapore	6,099	2

SOURCE: EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

## WB to help ramp up the fight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank yesterday approved \$200 million to help Bangladesh improve primary healthcare services for treatment, prevention and referral for common illnesses including mosquito-borne diseases like dengue, and medical waste management in Dhaka, Chattogram City, Savar and Tarabo.

One of the objectives of the project – called the Urban Health, Nutrition and Population Project – will be to strengthen the existing mosquito control unit of the Local Government Division with adequate technical support, equipment, human resources and training.

With high population density, climate change and rapid urbanisation, new health challenges are emerging, including an increase of dengue

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## Tigers stumble in Asia Cup opener

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh started their Asia Cup campaign horribly, losing to co-hosts Sri Lanka by five wickets following an abysmal batting display in Pallekele yesterday.

Despite a 122-ball 89 from Najmul Hossain Shanto, the Tigers were bundled out for a meagre 164 run total in just 42.4 overs. Sri Lanka lost a few early wickets and also suffered a wobble at the end but, with no scoreboard pressure, managed to cruise to victory with 66 balls to spare.

Hopes were raised in the Bangladesh camp when Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, and skipper Shakib Al Hasan removed the Sri Lankan top order, reducing them to three for 43 in 9.2 overs.



Najmul Hossain Shanto's 89-run knock was the highest for Bangladesh yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

However, Sadeera Samarawickrama and Charith Asalanka stitched together a 78-run fourth-wicket stand, all but securing their path to victory.

Samarawickrama scored his fourth ODI fifty – a 77-ball 54 – while Asalanka was unbeaten on 62 off 92 deliveries as the defending champions began the six-nation tournament on a strong note.

The defeat in their first game will see Shakib and his troops under a lot of pressure as qualifying for the Super Four stage now becomes more tricky for the Tigers, who came into the tournament with a lot of expectations.

Thanks to the hybrid model being followed in this Asia Cup, Bangladesh will now have to travel to Lahore and beat Afghanistan in their final group-stage game on September 3. On top of that, the Tigers will also hope for Sri Lanka to beat Afghanistan in the other group game in order to qualify for the Super Four without bringing run-rate into the equation.

Yesterday, Bangladesh saw a batting meltdown with no batter other than Shanto, who smashed seven boundaries on way to his fourth ODI fifty, managing to register a decent score.

Debutant Tanzid Hasan Tamim was dismissed after scoring four while Naim Sheikh looked uncomfortable before being dismissed on

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### THE THIRD VIEW



MAHFUZ ANAM

## DSA to CSA: A sham of a reform

READ THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 8

## Political rifts will only hurt the judiciary

Says outgoing CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outgoing Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique yesterday said it does no good to the judiciary when political rifts leave the streets and enter the courts.

"We need to bear in mind that divisions and discords among the lawyers and the resulting reactions harm the judiciary. If political ideologies are implemented politically and the courts are kept at a safe distance, the judiciary feels comfortable," he said.

He made the remark in a farewell speech at his courtroom in the Supreme Court's Appellate Division.

The chief justice, who will retire on September 25, appeared in the courtroom for hearing and disposing of cases on his last working day yesterday, as the court will go on a 37-day annual vacation from today.

The farewell, which took place after he concluded the court proceedings, was accorded by Attorney General AM Amin Uddin and Supreme Court Bar Association President Md Momtaz Uddin Fakir and its Secretary Abdun Nur Dulal in a jam-packed courtroom.

"It cannot be said that the state and the judiciary are operating in the right way if the laws crush the poor

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Hasan Foez Siddique



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

The bridge to a ferry pontoon in Chattogram's Boalkhali upazila goes under spring tide Wednesday afternoon forcing people to wade though knee-deep water. The authorities have set up the terminal next to the Kalurghat bridge which remains shut since August 1 for repairs.

## Korvi wins Magsaysay Award



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Korvi Rakshand, the founder of JAAGO Foundation, has been honoured with the Ramon Magsaysay Award for his unwavering dedication to education and social change.

Korvi, the 13th Bangladeshi to have received the honour, has won the award in the emergent leadership category this year.

The announcement about this year's awardees was made yesterday by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation.

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