

DENGUE OUTBREAK

6 more die, 645 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday as the country grapples with a record outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease.

Of the six deaths, four were reported in the capital.

At least 645 patients were hospitalised in the 24-hour period, according to DGHS.

Dengue has so far claimed at least 1,583 lives this year and nearly 2,98,094 were infected, making this the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

According to DGHS data, 3,848 patients were undergoing treatment at hospitals.

For the love of fountain pens

FROM PAGE 3

"Ballpoint pens, as cheap as they are, being made of plastic and often for single use, mean there is a lot of wastage. One will simply throw away a pen after a couple of week's writing, which means thousands of such pens are piling up and contributing to plastic pollution. It is not sustainable," he said.

"With just one fountain pen, you could write for years if you take care of it. All you need is to buy new ink bottles, which are not so expensive. The issue, however, is with paper. These days fountain pen friendly papers are not manufactured much, so users often find difficulty to use these pens to write on regular paper. However,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested two members of a gang who used to masquerade as senior officials of the Prime Minister's Office to embezzle money from nomination aspirants of Awami League ahead of the upcoming national election.

After a ruling party leader and nomination aspirant filed a complaint in this regard, police arrested the two from Noakhali on Thursday. Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner (detective branch) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said yesterday.

The arrestees are Md Yeasin, 46, and his daughter, Suriya Yasmin, 22.

They used to call the aspirants and say, "We have special instructions for your nomination."

For nomination, you have to pay Tk 20 crore to the party fund. Keep the fund ready and submit it soon after getting instructions," said Harun.

The DB chief said both father and daughter are experts in using technology. They saved their numbers on WhatsApp, True Caller, etc, with the names and pictures of senior officials of the PMO.

So whenever they made those calls, the officials' names used to pop up on the screen," he added.

Harun said police recovered several voice call records from the arrestees' phones, in which they were heard identifying themselves as senior officials and seeking money for the nomination.

Investigators said Yeasin used to sell electronic products in Dhaka.

They randomly target politicians from different districts who collected nomination forms and are desperate for nominations, and then used to contact them, promising to secure their nominations, said Harun.

Asked how many people have been embezzled by the gang, Harun said, "We would interrogate the arrestees during remand and then we may be able to say clearly."

"We have arrested several fraud gang members earlier for such fake nomination calls based on complaints," he said.

Harun said people should stay alert of such gangs and inform the police if anyone falls victim to such fraudulence.

"We are investigating whether any other such gangs are active and conducting drives to arrest them," he added.

Kaiser Hasan passes away

STAR REPORT

Morshed was son of late KG Morshed and late Zuleikha Morshed, and husband of late Suraiya Morshed.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held after the Zohr prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque today.

His children Waleed, Lamiya and Fazeela request all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

CLIMATE ACTION

UK to work closely with Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UK and Bangladesh will continue to work closely to turn climate commitments into action and have common objectives for COP28, said British Deputy High Commissioner and Development Director, Matt Cannell.

"It is vital that COP28 keeps the 1.5 degree target alive, makes progress towards a clean energy transition, away from fossil fuels, and rebuilds trust on climate financing commitments," he said at a discussion organised by the British High Commission Dhaka at the High Commissioner's Residence on Thursday.

The event titled “Towards COP28: Building momentum for climate action” brought together representatives from policymakers, academics, private sectors, civil society, youth and media.

11 years on

FROM PAGE 3
punishment. The
government and the
BGMEA have been
negligent in taking
initiative to deliver justice,
he alleged.

Many injured workers lost their ability to work, some are being critically ill, and are facing acute hardship. They need treatment and financial support, but neither the government nor the BGMEA are acting in this regard, Mintu said.

Rafiqul Islam Sujon, president of Bangladesh Garment and Shilpa Sramik Federation, said worker leaders like him are frustrated seeing that none of their demands were met even 11 years after one of the worst tragedies of the country's garment sector.

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Date: 23-11-2023