

Dengue death toll hits 89; experts warn of Aug surge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more dengue patients died and 319 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), two of the latest deaths were reported from Chattogram division, and one from the Dhaka South City Corporation area.

With the latest figures, the total number of dengue-related deaths has risen to 89, while the number of recorded cases stands at 22,384 so far this year.

Experts have warned that the situation may deteriorate significantly in August due to the prevailing rainfall pattern, which creates ideal conditions for the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes – the primary vector of the virus.

“Intermittent rain is highly favourable for the spread of the dengue virus, which is already present across the country,” said entomologist GM Saifur Rahman.

He said Aedes mosquitoes tend to be more active during overcast or gloomy weather, which has persisted nationwide. “During the monsoon, the number of dengue cases can be up to nine times higher than during the dry season,” he added.

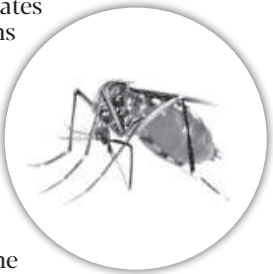
Saifur urged the public to take preventive measures, such as wearing full-sleeve clothing, using mosquito nets, and conducting regular cleaning drives at home to eliminate breeding grounds – particularly on rooftops.

He also criticised the authorities for failing to conduct effective anti-mosquito drives. “They often neglect proper operations in infected areas and even in homes where cases are reported,” he said.

Jahangirnagar University entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar warned that dengue cases in August could be at least three times higher than in July, with the possibility of further increase in September.

“The current rain pattern is one of the main drivers behind the surge. Once an outbreak begins, cases tend to rise at a geometric rate,” said Bashar.

He stressed the importance of widespread larvae control and elimination of breeding sites. “When both the mosquito population and the number of infected individuals rise simultaneously, the disease spreads rapidly.”



Sand being extracted from a river in Netrakona using a dredger machine. Inset, piles of sand stored beside a road. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Sand syndicates thrive across Netrakona

JAYDUL ISLAM, Netrakona

Despite repeated government restrictions, illegal sand extraction from various rivers in Netrakona shows no signs of slowing down.

Unscrupulous traders are using dredger machines day and night, turning it into a booming business while disregarding official bans, alleged locals.

This rampant extraction poses a serious threat to riverside farmlands, homesteads, roads, religious establishments, market places, and government infrastructure. It is also causing significant environmental degradation.

According to the Revenue Department of the District Administration, there were once seven authorised sand quarries in the district. However, following a High Court directive, five sand quarries on the Someshwari River in Durgapur and one on the Mahadeo River in Kalmakanda have been shut down.

Currently, only one legal sand quarry remains – in Bobahala mouza on the Gomai River in Sadar upazila, covering 14.58 acres.

It has been leased to a contractor firm named Arif Enterprise for Tk 6,25,000.

There are, however, allegations that the lessee is extracting sand beyond the authorised area. He is reportedly operating dredgers near the Sidhli Bridge in Kailati union, Kalmakanda.

A recent field visit confirmed sand extraction just 70 metres from the bridge, where a large boat was using a dredger to pile sand on the shore.

Locals have accused former Union Parishad chairman Rubel Bhuiyan of involvement in the illegal activity.

Asked, Rubel denied the charges while Arif claimed he was operating within legal boundaries.

In another instance, sand is being extracted from the Mirkatli River in Gaokandia union, Durgapur, allegedly under the pretext of repairing the Krishnapur-Munshipara road.

Local Jubo Dal leader Shuvo Ahmed has been named in connection. On Sunday afternoon, he was seen supervising sand extraction with a dredger and delivering it to the roadside.

Asked, he said, “I am doing it to ease the suffering of locals... what’s wrong with that?”

Illegal sand mining also continues at night in several parts of Rangchhati union in Kalmakanda upazila, including Krishnapur, Hasanagaon, Omargaon, Diarkanda, and Bishorposha.

Recently, a mobile court conducted a raid in Diarkanda, fined the perpetrators Tk 50,000, and seized the extracted sand.

Across the district, influential syndicates are reportedly running illegal sand extraction businesses in areas such as Barhatta, Khaliajuri, Sadar, Lengura, Mangalshwari, Telsindur, Shimulia, Chakua, and Rasulpur.

Although local authorities have conducted some raids, they have failed to bring the situation under control.

Dilwar Khan, a member of Bela’s Netrakona chapter, said, “Administrative action alone isn’t enough, we need the active participation of law enforcement and civil society to stop this illegal practice.”

Md Abdullah Al Matin, assistant director of the Department of Environment in Netrakona, said, “Even with a lease, environmental clearance is mandatory. If anyone violates this requirement, legal action will be taken.”

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner Banani Biswas said, “Currently, there is only one legal sand quarry in the district. We are taking action wherever illegal sand extraction is reported, and these operations will continue.”

Struggle for a better

FROM PAGE 3

was born as an independent and sovereign state at the cost of countless lives.

Prof Yunus said despite achieving independence, the people of Bangladesh have continued to be denied justice and democracy for more than five decades.

He said the country’s path to true freedom has been marred by discrimination, corruption, and misgovernance.

The nation must now strive to honour the sacrifices of those who fought for independence and those who died during the July uprising by transforming Bangladesh into a place where justice, equality, and democracy truly prevail, said the chief adviser.

He stressed that July Mass Uprising Day should serve as a reminder that

the struggle for a better future continues, and that the country’s youth must remain at the forefront of this fight for a fairer and more equitable Bangladesh.

“Today, we have not come just to remember the past – we have come to take an oath. The oath is that we will not bow our heads to any kind of oppression; we will establish an accountable, humane, democratic, and non-discriminatory state. A state that will always work for the welfare of the people,” he said.

“We will not let the sacrifice of the July martyrs go in vain. Their sacrifice will be the inspiration for our path. Their dream will be the construction line of our future Bangladesh – let this be our oath today,” he added.

The rebel

FROM PAGE 3

competition themed “Our July Stories” – Iftehaz Yeasir Iftee, Ohona Anjum, and Samara Subaita.

The programme ended with a musical segment, featuring young independent artists from Dhaka’s burgeoning music scene. Nishan and Kid Nazze delivered rap performances, channelling the spirit of protest into beats and lyrics and giving voice to sentiments often left unsaid.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, delivered remarks during the ceremony, highlighting the importance of holding space for memory and dialogue.

The exhibition will remain open to the public until the end of August at the Ground Floor and Level 1 of The Daily Star Centre between 10:00am and 7:00pm.

We’ll fight on

FROM PAGE 3

we will not cry anymore. Let the tyrants cry instead.”

Martyr Shuvo’s mother recounted how her son was shot on July 18 and died the next morning due to a lack of treatment. “A year has passed, yet there is no justice. What was his crime?” she asked.

The audience responded with chants: “Abu Sayed Mugdho, shesh hoyni juddho (war isn’t over yet)” and “Tomar desh, amar desh (your country, my country), Bangladesh Bangladesh”.

“My son was killed on July 19. He went to offer prayers and never returned. I am proud to be the mother of a martyr, but how does a mother live without her child?”

Mother of martyr Akram Khan Rabbi

demand too.”

Mokhlesur Rahman Chowdhury, secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration, said individuals complicit with the former autocratic regime had already been removed from government posts, with more to follow. “No one will be spared,” he said.

Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhter paid tribute to the families.

“Those who lost sons, daughters, wives, and husbands in July – we salute you,” she said. “The

Milli Bhat: the soulful taste of Jamalpur’s heritage



SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB, Jamalpur

In Jamalpur, food is not just nourishment – it is memory, emotion, and identity. At the centre of this culinary tradition stands “Milli Bhat”, a rich, hearty dish that locals speak of with pride and nostalgia. Some call it Manda, others Pithali, but to most, it is simply “Milli” – the taste of home.

Traditionally, this beloved dish was cooked only on special occasions such as weddings, religious events, and village feasts. Over time, however, Milli Bhat has found its way onto local restaurant and hotel menus. Yet, even as it gains popularity, it remains deeply rooted in tradition. Those who have tasted it say the experience is unforgettable.



What makes it so special? The slow-cooked beef, the blend of nearly 20 aromatic spices, and the smooth thickening of rice flour come together to create something truly unique – flavourful, soulful, and deeply satisfying.

Historically, it is believed that the people of Jamalpur have been cooking Milli Bhat for over 200 years. The dish is more than food – it is a celebration. At community events, villagers still gather in open fields, seated on hay-covered ground, sharing plates in the spirit of togetherness.

Moreover, the cooking process itself is a ritual. Beef is marinated and slow-cooked over a wood fire for hours. Rice flour is then added to

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

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তারিখ: ২০ শ্রাবণ ১৪৩২

০৪ আগস্ট ২০২৫

পর নং-৫৮.০৪.০৬০০.১৬১.০৩.০০১.২৫-৩৩৭৭/২

“দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

(১) মরদমার/বিভাগ	১। স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয় (সুদান ও সেবা বিভাগ)।
(২) এজেন্সি/স্বত্ব	২। কারা অধিদপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা।
(৩) মরদমার আবেদনকারীর নাম	৩। জেলা সুপার, হবিগঞ্জ জেলা কারাগার।
(৪) মরদমার নাম	৪। ০১.০৭.২০২৫ হতে ৩০.০৭.২০২৫ পর্যন্ত সময়ের সাধারণ বিকাশের বিধিবিদ্যে পুনঃনির্ধারণ (২য় বার) সরবরাহের জন্য কারা প্রিকারার ও সরবরাহকারী দিয়েগের মরদমার।
(৫) মরদমার বিজ্ঞপ্তির ব্যতীত ও তারিখ	৫। কারা উপ-মন্ত্রণালয়, সিটি বিভাগ সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকার পর নং- ৫৮.০৪.২১০০.০৬০.০৩.০১৭.২৫-১৯৩৭ তারিখে ০৯.০৪.২০২৫।
(৬) মরদমারের সুদানতম যোগ্যতা	৬। মরদমার সিটিভিউ উপস্থিতি শর্তসমূহ।
(৭) বার্ষিক ও কারা প্রতিষ্ঠা উপস	৭। জাতীয় রাজস্ব তহবিল।
(৮) মরদমার আবেদন পদ্ধতি	৮। সিটিভিউ মরদমার পদ্ধতি।
(৯) মরদমার দলিল প্রতিষ্ঠা স্থান	৯। জেলা সুপার এর কার্যালয়, হবিগঞ্জ জেলা কারাগার।
(১০) মরদমার দলিল বিজ্ঞপ্তির শেষ তারিখ	১০। ০৭/২০২৫ লো ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
(১১) মরদমার অন্য সেবার স্থান	১১। ০১.০৭/২০২৫ লো ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
(১২) মরদমার অন্য সেবার তারিখ ও সময়	১২। ০৭/২০২৫ তারিখ লো ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
(১৩) মরদমার স্বাধীনতা কক্ষের সময়	১৩। ০৭/২০২৫ লো ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
(১৪) মরদমার সুদানতম অধিষ্ঠার সারা অন্তর্ভুক্তির সময়	১৪। প্রতিটি সিটিভিউর জন্য ৭৪৩/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ টাকা)।
(১৫) মরদমার দলিলের স্থান	১৫। ০২.০৬.০০ (পৌরস্বত্ব হারানো টাকা)।
(১৬) মরদমারের পরিমাণ	১৬। মরদমার বিজ্ঞপ্তি ক্রমিক নং ০৪ যোগ্যতাক।
(১৭) মরদমারের সময় সীমা	১৭। মরদমার দলিল উপস্থিতি শর্তসমূহ।
(১৮) মরদমারের সাথে যে সকল কাগজের সংকেত করতে হবে	১৮। মরদমার সিটিভিউর শর্তসমূহ।
(১৯) মরদমারের প্রতি বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	১৯। মরদমার সিটিভিউর শর্তসমূহ।
(২০) মরদমার সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য শর্তসমূহ জানার প্রয়োজনে এ দপ্তরের সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।	
(২১) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণে দলিলের ব্যতীতকারে যে কোন/সকল মরদমার ব্যতীত/এক/একটি মরদমারের সংকেত করেন।	

০৪ আগস্ট ২০২৫

মোঃ মুজিবুর রহমান

ফোন-০২৭২৯৯০০১১৯

জেল সুপার

হবিগঞ্জ জেলা কারাগার।

jaisuperhabiganj@gmail.com

PRAYER
TIMING

AUGUST 6

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 4-20

12-45

5-00

6-47

8-15

JAMAAT 4-55

1-15

5-15

6-50

8-45

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