

Khulna division sees surge in measles cases

STAR REPORT

The number of children hospitalised with measles symptoms is rising sharply across the Khulna division, putting pressure on already strained health facilities.

At least 56 children were admitted between 8:00am Monday and 8:00am yesterday, according to the divisional health office.

A total of 351 children were undergoing treatment across the division till Monday afternoon, said Mujibur Rahman, deputy director of the divisional health office.

Kushtia is the worst-affected district in the division, with 101 children currently hospitalised.

"All health facilities have been alerted, but there are not enough beds at the upazila level. We have been asked to make arrangements as best as possible," said Dr Mosammat Mahfuza Khatun, civil surgeon of Khulna.

She said health workers are going door to door to raise awareness and identify unvaccinated children, adding that there is no shortage of measles vaccines.

So far, seven children have died in the division after showing measles symptoms.

Meanwhile, in Mymensingh, a nine-month old child from Nakla upazila in Sherpur died in the last 24 hours from post-measles pneumonia with respiratory failure, said Dr Mohammad Mainuddin Khan, assistant director of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

A total of seven children have died with similar symptoms at the hospital in the past 20 days, he said.

During this time, 276 suspected measles patients were admitted, of whom 87 remain under treatment as of yesterday afternoon.

However, the hospital has no paediatric ICU. A six-bed unit has been prepared but is not yet operational, and patients needing ICU support are being referred to Dhaka.

Dr Faisal Ahmed, acting civil surgeon in Mymensingh, said three dedicated beds have been arranged in each of the district's 11 upazila health complexes, and a fever clinic has been launched at the hospital's outpatient department.

In Rajshahi, a six-month-old girl from Gomostapur upazila in Chapainawabganj died in the last 24 hours with measles-like symptoms, said Dr Shankar K Biswas, spokesperson for Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

With this, 43 children have died with similar symptoms this year, he said, adding that 123 patients are currently undergoing treatment there.

In Gazipur, eight children were admitted with measles symptoms at Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital in the past 24 hours. A total of 34 children are undergoing treatment there, said on-duty doctor Mohammad Hanif.

[Our correspondents from Khulna, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Gazipur contributed to the report.]



BARGUNA CROCODILE BREEDING CENTRE Not a single hatchling survived in 13yrs

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

At the Tengragiri Crocodile Breeding Centre in Taltali upazila of Barguna, not a single hatchling survived in the past 13 years of breeding efforts, with each dying soon after being hatched under unclear circumstances.

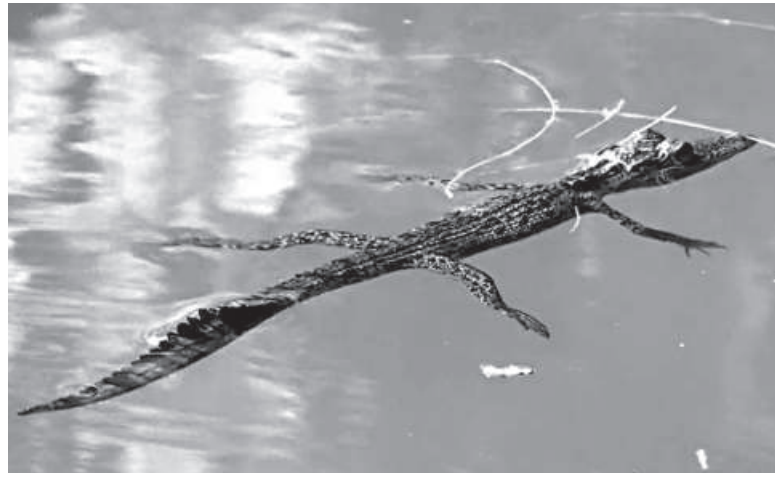
The centre was established in the 2011-12 fiscal year inside the Tengragiri Eco Park to conserve freshwater crocodiles, with a pair of adult crocodiles named "Tengra" and "Sakhina".

According to the centre's data, the female crocodile has been laying an average of 8-10 eggs every year. Although the eggs hatch and offspring are born, none can be successfully raised to maturity.

Raju, a resident of the Sonakata area, alleged that forest officials concerned do not properly care for the hatchlings, leading to their deaths.

Similar allegations were made by KM Riayul Islam from the Sakhina area, who claimed that even the adult crocodiles are not fed adequately. "They are given only two broiler chickens every three to four days, which is highly insufficient," he said.

"Keeping them confined without proper feeding is inhumane. If



proper care cannot be ensured, the crocodiles should be released into the Sundarbans," he added.

Locals also recalled a tragic incident on March 25, 2017, when Asaduzzaman Rony, 29, of Sabujnagar village in Mathbaria upazila of Pirojpur, was killed at the centre after being dragged into water by one of the crocodiles as he approached the breeding pond with friends.

Arif Rahman, president of Barguna Tourist Management Association, said there is no manpower to raise the hatchlings at the centre. As a result, the hatchlings die prematurely.

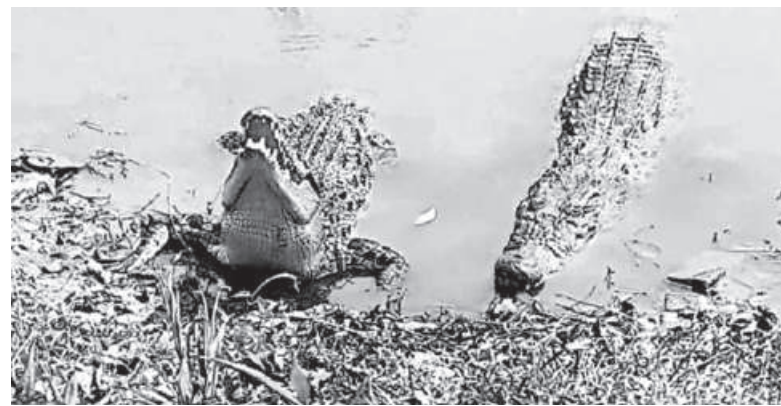
Successful breeding could turn the centre into a tourist attraction, he added.

"The male crocodile often eats the hatchlings. We do not have trained personnel to separate the hatchlings from the adults and nurse them properly," said Sakhina Beat Officer Rahimul Islam, adding that a request for skilled staffers will be sent to higher authorities soon.

He refuted allegations of irregular feeding, saying that the crocodiles are fed regularly. "If they were not fed properly, they would not have survived this long," he added.

Taltali Range Officer Matiuur Rahman said hatchlings must be kept in a separate, safe environment to prevent adult crocodiles from preying on them.

"A proposal has already been sent to higher authorities to bring in an expert from the Karamjal Crocodile Breeding Centre in the Sundarbans to assess the situation. Further steps will be taken based on expert recommendations to ensure successful breeding of freshwater crocodiles at the facility," he added.



Passion fruit farming gains ground in Jhenaidah

OMAR ALI SHOHAG, Jhenaidah

Commercial cultivation of passion fruit, native to South America, has begun in Maheshpur upazila in Jhenaidah, with a local entrepreneur expanding production and attracting interest from other farmers.

Mahmudul Hasan Stalin, an agricultural entrepreneur from Pantapara village, started cultivating the fruit on an experimental basis after learning about it on YouTube.

He initially collected a small number of saplings from India. Encouraged by early results, he expanded cultivation to 3.5 bighas this year.

The initiative is prompting a gradual shift among local farmers, with around 35 growers already collecting saplings from Stalin for commercial cultivation, while others have taken them out of curiosity or as a hobby, he added.

Stalin has been cultivating various fruits for the past seven years.

Passion fruit is cultivated in Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. Known locally by different names, including "Anarkoli" and "Tang", the fruit is valued for its taste and nutritional properties. Stalin said he is cultivating the yellow variety.

The crop is grown on scaffolds, similar to other creeper fruits and vegetables. According to Stalin, cultivation costs range between Tk 70,000 and Tk 80,000 per bigha.

"From my experimental cultivation, I found it to be a profitable crop," Stalin said. "It requires relatively low inputs. Organic fertiliser is sufficient, and no significant irrigation or pesticide use is needed."

He said passion fruit plants bear fruit twice a year, and each bigha can yield around 1,00,000 fruits. The produce is currently selling at Tk 15-30 per piece in wholesale markets, with the highest price reaching Tk 78-80 per fruit, he said.

The fruit is harvested during Ashar and Shrabon (June-August), which he identified as the most suitable period for cultivation.

Stalin also said that traders from Chattogram are purchasing the fruit directly from the fields.

Maheshpur Upazila Agriculture Officer Yasmin Sultana said officials are assessing the suitability of local soil and management requirements for the crop. "We are gathering information about this fruit and will visit the project. Once we have a clearer understanding, we will be able to guide farmers," she said.



ACC sets records in probes

FROM PAGE 3

in the working environment and the institutional context of the ACC," he said.

"Following the fall of an authoritarian kleptocratic regime, the reconstituted ACC during the interim period moved quickly to investigate corruption allegations involving individuals linked to the former regime, including several high-profile figures."

However, he raised concerns about cases involving individuals aligned with the current power structure.

Allegations suggest that some cases were disposed of quickly, raising questions about the commission's independence.

"There is no credible evidence to suggest that all such allegations were politically motivated or intended as harassment," he added.

He also questioned the ACC's response to corruption allegations involving individuals linked to the government, particularly where higher-level influence may be involved.

"It would not be unreasonable to say that even

in the post-authoritarian period, the ACC appears to have continued a long-standing practice - showing greater activism in cases involving those outside the ruling circle, while maintaining distance in cases involving those in or close to power," he said.

Former ACC director general (legal) Moeedul Islam said, "Filing cases, submitting charge sheets, and increasing conviction rates indicate that the ACC is functioning. The most important issue is ensuring that those whose crimes are proven are brought to justice properly."

1972 Constitution

FROM PAGE 3

our constitution," he said. Shahdeen said he remained astonished by the context in which the constitution was framed.

"In 1972, the country was war-ravaged, with no bridges, one crore refugees returning, and almost no economic activity. Even then, the constitution was drafted through careful debate, not haste," he said.

"Nothing is flawless. The Constitution of 1972 is not flawless either. But the authoritarian rule and the arbitrariness of the past several years are not the fault of the 1972 Constitution. Previous rulers repeatedly misused it," he said.

"The absence of the rule of law is not the fault of the law itself but of those who apply it," he added.

Shahdeen also said 16 to 17 amendments had been made over the years and that deviation from its original spirit began within seven months through the first amendment, with a major shift occurring under the fourth amendment in 1975, which introduced the one-party Baksal system.

Referring to later changes under military rulers, Shahdeen said those who had framed the 1972 Constitution were, to a large extent, also responsible for its later deviation.

He described the July uprising as an outburst of pent-up anger built up through years of deprivation of rights, misrule, oppression, and lack of accountability.

"When our backs are against the wall, standing up in resistance is part of our national tradition," he said, adding that the ousted Awami League regime lacked moral and legal legitimacy.

Shahdeen called the movement's outcome the inevitable fate of autocrats. He also criticised the lack of substantive debate in the current parliament, questioning its role if it merely approves the ordinances issued by the interim government without scrutiny.

He emphasised that the core principle of the 1972 Constitution is that all power belongs to the people and that it seeks to ensure rights by limiting institutional authority.

Shahdeen also said that when he reads the constitution, he thinks about how its framers worked at a time when there was no internet or search engine, yet they incorporated the best elements from the constitutions of different countries based on their life experiences. Even then, there was extensive debate over it, he added.

He also referred to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Six-Point movement as the first "charter of liberation" or a "first draft constitution".

He stressed that history must be preserved carefully to avoid distortion.

Liberation War Museum Trustee Dr Sarwar Ali delivered the opening remarks at the event, while Member Secretary Mofidul Hoque presented the museum's annual report.

The programme also featured a dance recital by artists from Nrityam Nrityashilon Kendra and a musical performance by Warda Ashraf.

Implement

FROM PAGE 3 on April 13 at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, in Dhaka.

Mamunul Haque alleged that the government is showing clear disregard for the people's mandate by using various tactics instead of implementing the referendum verdict.

He said the opposition cannot remain silent from a responsible position and vowed to resist what he termed the return of fascism.

We brought blood for him

FROM PAGE 3

Nur-e-Alam that Rakib had been shot. The news was later confirmed by phone.

He was first taken to Aftabnagar Nagarik Hospital and later admitted to the DMCH's emergency unit before being shifted to the intensive care unit (ICU).

"When I tried to enter the ICU to see him, I was stopped," she said. "I went inside anyway and saw Rakib lying unconscious. I kissed his forehead and told him nothing would happen to him."

And yet, the doctors later broke the news his mother desperately hoped not to hear - that Rakib was no more.

Two of the accused who are in custody - former BGB officers Lt Col Mohammad Redowanul Islam and Maj Rafat Bin Alam Moon - were present in the dock during the testimony.

Two other accused former police officers - then Additional Deputy Commissioner of Khilgaon Md Rashedul Islam and then Rampura Police Station OC Moshir Rahman - are absconding.

In a separate crimes against humanity case linked to the July uprising, a prosecution witness, Mohammad Ali, yesterday testified before the ICT-2 against humanity case against Awami League

General Secretary Obaidul Quader and six other party leaders and affiliates.

Furthermore, ICT-2 yesterday took cognisance of formal charges against 22 accused, including former ministers Hasan Mahmud and Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, former lawmaker Fazle Karim Chowdhury, and 19 others in a related case in Chattogram.

The tribunal issued arrest warrants for Hasan Mahmud, Nowfel, and 16 absconding accused and directed authorities to produce them before it on April 19. Four other accused, including Fazle Karim, are already in jail in other cases.

'জাতীয় কবির চেতনায় নতুন বাংলাদেশ'
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম ইনস্টিটিউট
সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

নং- ৪৩.২৪.০০০০.০০০.০০৫.০৪.০০০১.২৬.১০ তারিখ : ০৭.০৪.২০২৬

নজরুল-পুরস্কারের মনোনয়ন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নজরুল-সঙ্গীত, সাহিত্য ও অন্যান্য ক্ষেত্রে অনন্যসাধারণ অবদানের স্বীকৃতি প্রদানের নিমিত্ত কবি নজরুল ইসলাম ইনস্টিটিউট 'নজরুল-পুরস্কার' প্রবর্তন করেছে। প্রতি বছরের ন্যায় এ বছরও 'নজরুল-পুরস্কার ২০২৫' প্রদানের জন্য মনোনয়ন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। মনোনয়ন ফরম (ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠান) ও নীতিমালা জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম ইনস্টিটিউট ওয়েব সাইট (www.nazrulinsitute.gov.bd) থেকে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে। আগামী ৩০ এপ্রিল ২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র নির্বাহী পরিচালক, জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম ইনস্টিটিউট বরাবর দাখিল করতে হবে। প্রতিটি বিষয়ের পুরস্কারের মূল্যমান হবে দুই লক্ষ টাকা। পুরস্কার প্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে পদক, সম্মানের চেক এবং সম্মাননাপত্র প্রদান করা হবে। নজরুল-জন্মবার্ষিকীতে এ পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবে। যোগ্যতা :

(ক) দেশি-বিদেশি নাগরিক এই পুরস্কারের যোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবেন।
(খ) বাংলাদেশের মুক্তিযুদ্ধ, স্বাধীনতার চেতনা, সার্বভৌমত্ব, প্রচলিত আইন ও গণতান্ত্রিক পরিপন্থী কোনো কার্যক্রম গ্রহণকারী গবেষক বা শিল্পী এই পুরস্কার পাওয়ার যোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবেন না।
(গ) এই পুরস্কার কেবল ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে প্রদান করা হবে।
(ঘ) সকল মন্ত্রণালয়, জেলা প্রশাসক (সকল), সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধীন অধিদপ্তর/দপ্তর/পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এবং ইতিপূর্বে নজরুল পুরস্কারপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তি উপযুক্তদের নামের প্রস্তাব বা মনোনয়ন দিতে পারবেন।
(ঙ) পুরস্কার প্রাপ্তির জন্য ইনস্টিটিউট কর্তৃক আবেদন আহ্বান না করা পর্যন্ত কোনো ব্যক্তিগত আবেদনপত্র বিবেচনা করা হবে না।
(চ) পুরস্কার প্রাপ্ত কোনো ব্যক্তি / প্রতিষ্ঠান দ্বিতীয়বার এ পুরস্কার প্রাপ্তির যোগ্য মর্মে বিবেচিত হবেন না।
(ছ) জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম ইনস্টিটিউট ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের সভাপতি, সদস্যবৃন্দ এবং 'নজরুল পুরস্কার' কমিটির কোনো সদস্য যীয় পদে বহাল থাকা অবস্থায় এই পুরস্কারের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।

M. M. M. M.
মোঃ লতিফুল ইসলাম শিবলী
নির্বাহী পরিচালক (প্রোগ-১)

জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম ইনস্টিটিউট, ঢাকা

PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 8

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-40	12-45	4-45	6-21	7-45
JAMAAT 5-15	1-15	5-00	6-24	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Engineering Office
University of Chittagong
Chittagong-4331, Bangladesh
Phone: PABX-02334460788 (extn-4231), E-mail: ce_engroff@cu.ac.bd

Ref No: LTM-11/UCUE-40/2025-26

LTM Notice

This is an online tender (e-GP), where Only LTM Enlisted Contractors/Tenderers at the University of Chittagong are eligible and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

SL No	Tender ID & Package No.	Package Description
1	ID-1254281, CE-e-GP(LTM)-178/UCUE-2775/AID/2025-26	LTM-178/UCUE-2775/AID/2025-26 Construction for R.C.C Road work of Forhad Hossen Hall end point to Atish Dipankar Sriyagan Hall at the University of Chittagong.

Without submitted the copy of CU LTM Enlisted License Book (Up-to-date), the bidder would be Non-Responsive. More information and guidance is available at the National e-GP Portal System and the e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Rashedul
০৩.০৫.২৬
Engr. Abdul Ahad
Chief Engineer (i/c)
University of Chittagong
Chittagong, Bangladesh.

GD-757

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
ভাওয়াল বদরে আলম সরকারি কলেজ
গাজীপুর

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিম্নলিখিত কাজের জন্য অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/সিঁকাদারের নিকট থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

কাজের নাম: প্রতিষ্ঠানের ২০২৬ খ্রিষ্টাব্দের বার্ষিক মাসাঞ্জিন তৈরি ও সরবরাহকরণ।

- দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও স্থান: কাজের সিঁকাদা ০৮/০৪/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ থেকে ১৯/০৪/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ বেলু ০২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের হিসাব শাখায় পাওয়া যাবে। ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকার ড্রেজারি চালানোর মাধ্যমে সিঁকাদা করা করতে হবে।
- দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ: ২০/০৪/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
- দরপত্র পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০২৫ অনুযায়ী হবে এবং অনলাইনে জামিয়ে দেওয়া হবে।
- বিজ্ঞপ্তি তথ্য দরপত্রের সিঁকাদা উপস্থাপন করা আছে।

(স্বাক্ষরিত)
প্রফেসর হানোয়ারা সুলতানা
আইডি নম্বর-৯৬৯২
অধ্যক্ষ
ভাওয়াল বদরে আলম সরকারি কলেজ
গাজীপুর

GD-750