



Cities to fight dengue blind

Lack of funding results in no surveys conducted on Aedes mosquitos

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Although the monsoon season is approaching, the health authorities have yet to take any initiative to conduct the pre-monsoon entomological survey that experts say is crucial for identifying mosquito breeding hotspots and preventing a major dengue outbreak.

Until 2024, the Directorate General of Health Services conducted three annual entomological surveys in Dhaka to detect Aedes larvae before, during, and after the monsoon.

The survey findings were shared with the two city corporations to help destroy breeding sites before dengue transmission intensified.

Only the pre-monsoon survey was conducted last year, while no initiative has yet been taken to carry out any survey this year, raising concerns among public health experts and entomologists.

The absence of the survey comes at a time when Bangladesh continues to face the threat of recurring dengue outbreaks, with experts warning that without early identification and destruction of mosquito larvae, the number of dengue patients could rise sharply during the monsoon, putting immense pressure on the healthcare system.

On the other hand, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has carried out a small-scale survey in its areas, but neither have the survey results been revealed nor has any initiative been taken based on them.

Besides, no survey is being conducted in other parts of the country, even though a large number of dengue cases and deaths have been reported there since 2019.

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Between January 1 and June 1, the country recorded six dengue deaths, including one on June 1, and 3,307 cases. Last year, 413 people died from dengue, and over 1 lakh were hospitalised.

Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain on Monday said they have taken all-out preparations to face dengue.

Dengue corners are being set up at upazila health centres, he said,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PM's first visit abroad likely to be KL, then Beijing

PORIMOL PALMA

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is likely to make his first overseas visit to Malaysia on June 21-22, ahead of a three-day China visit starting June 23.

The announcement follows prolonged government deliberations over the choice of the first destination amid a competitive regional

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Khalilur elected UNGA president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman has been elected president of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) at UN headquarters in New York.



In yesterday's election, he secured 99 votes from the 193 UN member states, defeating Cyprus' candidate, Ambassador Andreas S Kakouris, who received 91 votes.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman congratulated him on the victory,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

RAMISA KILLING TRIAL Testifying ends in a day, arguments today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special tribunal in Dhaka yesterday completed recording witness testimony in a single day in the case filed over the rape and murder of eight-year-old schoolgirl Ramisa Akter.

The proceeding came just a day after charges were framed against prime accused Sohel Rana, 31, and his wife, Swapna Khatun, 26, over the May 19 crime that sparked nationwide outrage and prompted the government to pledge swift justice.

Judge Masrur Salekin of the Children Violence Suppression Tribunal in Dhaka Metropolitan recorded statements from 16 prosecution witnesses, bench assistant Pankoj Peter Gomes told The Daily Star.

The witnesses included the victim's parents and elder sister, three neighbours, a doctor, a Dhaka metropolitan magistrate and the investigating officer, said Special Public Prosecutor Azizur Rahman Dulu.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

CPJ urges govt to act on press freedom pledge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Committee to Protect Journalists in a statement issued yesterday urged Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to act on his government's press freedom pledge by ending the cycle of partisan persecution of journalists and protecting newsrooms from mob attacks.

The New York-based rights body also asked the government to release detained journalists, drop politically motivated cases, and reform laws used against the press.

In the statement, the CPJ said meaningful progress remained limited

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A youngster shows flair with a brilliant rainbow flick during a game of street football on KM Das Lane in the Tikatuli area of Dhaka yesterday. Local youths have dubbed the alley "FIFA Goli" after decorating its walls with portraits of legends like Maradona and Ronaldo ahead of the FIFA World Cup that's just eight days away.



THE ELITE EIGHT

From 1930 to 2022, only eight countries have earned the honor of becoming FIFA World Cup champions across 22 editions of the tournament. They are: Brazil (5 titles), Germany (4), Italy (4), Argentina (3), France (2), Uruguay (2), England (1), and Spain (1).

****Visit the Star website to also read: 'Get your tongues wagging: Facts you need to know for Brazil vs Argentina debate'**

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

LDC GRADUATION UN body backs Bangladesh's perks till 2029

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Committee for Development Policy (UN CDP) has recommended that Bangladesh's Least Developed Country (LDC) graduation be postponed until November 24, 2029, putting the country in good standing to receive preferential trade benefits for three more years.

"The extension of the preparatory period should not be viewed as an opportunity to delay reforms – rather, it should serve as a catalyst for accelerating them," the CDP said in its critical assessment report.

Bangladesh has exceeded the graduation thresholds by a significant margin under all three LDC graduation criteria and faces a very low risk of falling below these thresholds in the near to medium term.

But the recent crisis in the Middle East, uncertainties in global energy and supply chains, changes in the international trading environment, and global challenges could affect the country's graduation preparedness and transition process, the CDP said.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



'Don't let it out'

Mamata claims Amit Shah wanted to hush Bangladeshi murder suspects' arrest

STAR REPORT

Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee yesterday alleged that India's Home Minister Amit Shah had once asked her to keep quiet about the arrest of suspects linked to a high-profile murder in Bangladesh.

She made the allegation in her first major political programme since her

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