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Dengue risk high in 29 DSCC wards

28 wards at moderate risk, 18 at low risk: survey

Aedes larvae, pupae found in 403 households | Survey covers 2,250 households across 75 wards | Buckets, drums among major breeding sites | Special mosquito-control drives under way | Residents urged to remove stagnant water weekly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-nine of the 75 wards under Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) have been identified as high-risk areas for dengue transmission, while 28 are at moderate risk and 18 at low risk, according to a survey.

The findings were announced yesterday by DSCC Administrator Abdus Salam at a programme at Nagar Bhaban in the capital.

The survey, conducted by a 36-member DSCC team from September 27 to October 8, covered 2,250 households, with 30 selected from each ward.

Aedes mosquito larvae and pupae were found in 403 households, according to the findings presented by DSCC Chief Health Officer Dr Jahane Ferdous Binte Rahman.

The survey identified multi-storey buildings (31.06 percent), standalone houses (31.37 percent), semi-pucca houses (17.39 percent), buildings under construction (13.4 percent) and vacant plots (14.21 percent) as breeding sites.

The findings showed that plastic buckets accounted for 14.21 percent of larval breeding sites, followed by plastic drums (11.22 percent), stagnant water in basements (9.98 percent), plastic mugs (9.23 percent) and flower pots (5.99 percent).

The survey also found that nearly half (50.9 percent) of Aedes mosquito breeding and dengue transmission could be prevented at an early stage if residents remained vigilant about their courtyards and water-holding containers.

Speaking at the event, Abdus Salam urged residents to keep their homes and workplaces clean and remove stagnant water at least once a week, saying government efforts alone would not be enough to prevent dengue.

He said special mosquito-control drives and awareness programmes were continuing

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Students of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University block a road in the capital's Agargaon yesterday, protesting the proposed relocation of the Secretariat to the former International Trade Fair ground in the area.

PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**

Review migration ministry, diplomatic missions regularly

Speaker Hafiz calls for stronger accountability

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad yesterday called for regular performance reviews of the expatriates' welfare ministry and Bangladesh's diplomatic missions abroad to strengthen accountability and better protect migrant workers.

He made the call while inaugurating the Bangladesh Parliamentary Caucus on Migration, Rights and Development at a Dhaka hotel, where ministers, diplomats and migration experts discussed challenges including high recruitment costs, human trafficking, labour exploitation, and weak enforcement of migration laws.

The programme was organised by WARBE Development Foundation.

"I would request the caucus members to evaluate the performance of the expatriates' welfare ministry and the embassies abroad every three months or six months," Hafiz said.

He alleged that some ministers during the previous regime had acted as migration subagents and profited from the recruitment process, contributing to excessive migration costs.

The speaker also urged the caucus to work towards ensuring the dignity and security of Bangladeshi women employed in Middle Eastern countries.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said the foreign ministry had established a dedicated migration wing for the first time to address problems faced by Bangladeshis abroad.

She said the government had identified 14 districts with high

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Tidal surges batter coastal people amid warning gaps

Speakers call for localised forecasts, better preparedness, and stronger disaster response

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The failure to warn coastal communities about recurring tidal surges is costing Bangladesh an estimated Tk 8,000 crore over five years, with the financial losses now rivalling those caused by major cyclones, experts warned.

Nearly every coastal family in southwestern Bangladesh receives an early warning before a cyclone, yet almost nine in 10 get no alert before recurring tidal surges breach their embankments, a study revealed yesterday.

The findings were presented at a roundtable titled "Beyond Cyclones: Why Tidal Surge Deserves Urgent Attention in Bangladesh's Disaster Preparedness and Response" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Action Against Hunger (ACF) and The Daily Star jointly organised the event in collaboration with North South University and Uttaran, the project lead, under the SURF-IT project, supported by FCDO and IDRC through the CLARE programme.



Speakers at the roundtable organised by Action Against Hunger and The Daily Star, in collaboration with North South University and Uttaran, at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: **STAR**

While Bangladesh has reduced cyclone deaths, recurring unannounced surges are quietly destroying coastal livelihoods, said Dr Syed Mortuza Asif Ehsan, associate professor of economics at North South University.

Presenting a baseline study of 1,198 households in Assasuni, Koyra and Shyamnagar upazilas, he said families experience waterlogging an average of 2.2 times over five years.

Nearly half of affected households are forced to take loans or borrow money, while 40 percent cut food consumption. The poorest communities suffer the greatest relative income losses, he added.

Several speakers said the coast's

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IN FOCUS

PM seeks China's support in resolving Rohingya crisis

UNB, *Dhaka*

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday sought China's cooperation in resolving the protracted Rohingya crisis, citing the pressure on Bangladesh from hosting 1.3 million displaced people from Myanmar.

He made the request during a meeting with Liu Haixing, minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, at the PM's Office at the Secretariat.

At the meeting, Tarique highlighted the economic, social, demographic and environmental pressures Bangladesh has been facing due to the prolonged presence of 1.3 million Rohingyas and sought China's cooperation in resolving the crisis, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadhin.

Liu said China is aware of the Rohingya crisis and that he will convey the Bangladeshi PM's concerns to Chinese President Xi Jinping.

During the meeting, Liu conveyed Xi Jinping's greetings to the PM.

In response, Tarique extended his greetings to Xi and Chinese Premier Li Qiang.

Liu said a joint declaration on a new era of bilateral relations was issued during Tarique's visit to Beijing, expressing hope that the two countries would expand cooperation in line with the declaration.

Prothom Alo celebrates 28th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a pledge to pursue objective journalism through enhanced skills and creativity, Prothom Alo staff celebrated the newspaper's 28th founding anniversary yesterday at the Krishibid Institution auditorium in the capital.

At the staff conference, employees from Dhaka and across the country stressed the need to adapt to changing realities while remaining steadfast in seeking the truth.

Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman said, "In the future, Prothom Alo must turn into an AI-driven organisation. Prothom Alo is now conducting more forward-looking activities than at any time before. All departments are striving to build themselves up accordingly."

He said, "Increasing the circulation of the print newspaper is still important to us, but that is not the only goal. We must improve the quality of our journalism. We also have to think about increasing revenue. There is no alternative to running on our own income to practise journalism independently and survive. We must take these issues seriously for future journalism."

He added, "We will undertake more multifaceted work... Obstacles will come, as they did in the past. But we will not back down. Our commitment to truth is our

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Prothom Alo employees and distinguished guests gather to celebrate the 28th anniversary of the Bangla daily at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in the capital's Khamar Bari yesterday.

PHOTO: **STAR**

Four killed in Mirpur road crash



PHOTO: **FIRE SERVICE AND CIVIL DEFENCE**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people were killed in a head-on collision between a bus of Asian University of Bangladesh and an auto-rickshaw in the Diabari area of the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

The identities of the deceased, two men and two women, could not be immediately confirmed.

The accident took place at Nawaberbagh in Diabari, near the Mirpur embankment, under Shah Ali Police Station, around 7:38am, said Talha Bin Zasim, a member of the Fire Service and Civil Defence media cell.

A unit of Kalyanpur Fire Station responded to the scene and carried out rescue operations.

The bodies were later handed over to Shah Ali Police Station, said Sub-Inspector Ariful Islam, the duty officer of the station.