

SHELTECH

NEWSLETTER

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COVID-19, Dengue, and Chikungunya Threaten Public Health

by, TANVIR AHMED



SPECIAL OFFER

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Remembering
Dr. Toufiq M. Seraj,
A Visionary Pioneer
Who Transformed the
Real Estate Landscape
of Bangladesh



TRIPLE TROUBLE: COVID-19 VARIANT SURGE AND RISING DENGUE & CHIKUNGUNYA CASES THREATEN PUBLIC HEALTH

As Bangladesh faces simultaneous outbreaks of COVID-19, dengue, and chikungunya during monsoon, an urgent, unified public health response is critical to prevent a national crisis.

As monsoon rains intensify, Bangladesh finds itself grappling with not just one but three concurrent public health threats: a resurgent COVID-19 variant, a sharp rise in dengue cases and fatalities, and a renewed presence of chikungunya, all of which are straining healthcare systems and testing national preparedness.

COVID-19 Resurgence: A Growing Concern

After months of relative quiet, COVID-19 is re-emerging in Bangladesh. As of June 23, 2025, over 408 confirmed cases and 16 fatalities have been reported this year, with all the deaths occurring in June alone (DGHS, 2025). Hospitals such as the DNCC Dedicated COVID-19 Hospital in Mohakhali are witnessing a surge in daily outdoor patients where the numbers have doubled in a week reflecting growing community transmission and limited early detection. Testing resources are being expanded, but shortages persist in districts beyond Dhaka, underscoring the urgent need for decentralised diagnostics and consistent supply chains.

Dengue Deaths Rise, Particularly Outside Dhaka

At the same time, dengue continues its annual rampage. According to DGHS data, 7,758 dengue cases and 32 deaths have been reported from January to June 22, 2025. Alarming, over 75% of infections and most deaths occurred outside of major city corporation areas, especially in divisions like Barishal and Chattogram. Barishal accounts for 3,583 cases, followed by Chattogram (1,174), outside



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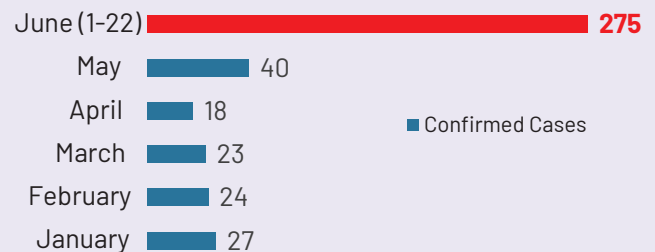
COVID-19 Yearly Summary (2020-2025)

Year	Cases	Deaths	Rate (%)
2020	513,510	7,559	1.47
2021	1,072,029	20,513	1.91
2022	451,586	1,369	0.3
2023	9,036	37	0.41
2024	5,182	22	0.42
2025*	413	16	3.87

* from Jan 01 - June 22

Monthly COVID-19 Cases

(January 01, 2025 - June 22, 2025)



of DCC (730), and Khulna (226). Dhaka North and South City Corporations (DNCC & DSCC) reported 618 and 1,093 cases respectively. These statistics highlight a shift in dengue's epicentre from urban Dhaka to more vulnerable, less-equipped peripheral areas. The rise has been attributed to poor mosquito control, inadequate drainage, and

year-round breeding grounds. In many regions, communities remain unaware of basic preventive practices, while coordinated fogging and source reduction efforts remain limited. Experts suggest this year's serotype (DEN-1 to DEN-4) diversity could also be causing more severe illness, increasing the case fatality rate (The Daily Star, 2025)

Chikungunya & Vector-Borne Diseases Resurface

Adding to the burden, chikungunya has reappeared, primarily in Dhaka. Between January and May 2025, Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control And Research (IEDCR) confirmed 153 cases out of 337 samples tested. The actual numbers could be higher due to limited PCR-based diagnostic access, leading to underreporting. Though generally non-fatal, chikungunya causes prolonged joint pain

and swelling, affecting productivity and quality of life. Its overlapping symptoms with dengue such as high fever, joint pain, rashes, etc. complicate clinical diagnosis and delay in appropriate care.

Healthcare professionals are also observing a rise in seasonal influenza and typhoid, contributing further to hospital congestion (The Business Standard, 2025).

Overburdened Hospitals and Delayed Response

The current outbreak is further complicated by delays in hospital admissions, particularly among dengue patients. Late arrivals contribute significantly to the rising death toll. Public hospitals are witnessing increasing load, with some already admitting more than 550-600 patients daily for combined febrile illnesses. Despite resource mobilisation, including test kits and saline stockpiles, healthcare providers remain concerned about reaching peak capacity if the current trend continues through the monsoon (The Daily Star, 2025).

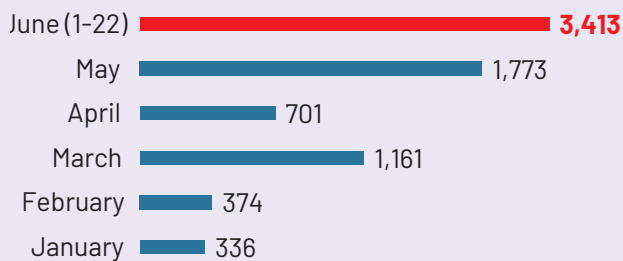
Need for Coordinated Public Health Response

The surge in dengue, chikungunya, and COVID-19 exposes weaknesses in Bangladesh's health preparedness. Experts call for sustained vector control, community involvement, and stronger diagnostic systems to curb mosquito-borne diseases, while maintaining COVID-19 precautions like wearing mask and testing. Stagnant water sources must be eliminated to disrupt Aedes mosquito breeding from all sectors whether it is household, construction site or anywhere near us.

Bangladesh's overlapping health crises demand urgent, coordinated action. A decentralized strategy- combining prevention, public awareness, and multi-sector efforts—is essential to mitigate the impact of these diseases amid climate challenges and urbanization pressures. Without swift intervention, the burden on the healthcare system will worsen.

Monthly Dengue cases

(January 01, 2025 - June 22, 2025)

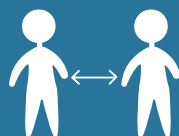


Division-wise Dengue Cases

(January 01, 2025 - June 22, 2025)

Division/ City Corporation	Reported Cases	Deaths
Barishal	3,583	7
Chattogram	1174	4
Dhaka (Outside CC)	730	1
DNCC	618	1
DSCC	1093	16

Few Preventive Measures for COVID-19 & Dengue Outbreak in Bangladesh



Avoid Close Contact



Wear Face Masks



Wash Hands Often



Use Effective Repellent



Cover/Empty Stagnant Water

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DR. TOUFIQ M. SERAJ – A VISIONARY PIONEER WHO TRANSFORMED THE REAL ESTATE LANDSCAPE OF BANGLADESH



Engr. Kutubuddin Ahmed, Chairman of Sheltech Group
Remembering His Childhood Friend-
Dr. Toufiq M. Seraj on June 21, 2025 at Sheltech

On June 21, 2019, Dr. Toufiq M. Seraj, Founder and Managing Director of the Sheltech Group, breathed his last on a Qatar-bound flight to Doha. He was a visionary and a pioneer in the field of real estate and housing in Bangladesh and played a leading role in shaping the real estate industry to be where it is today. Dr. Seraj was the president of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) and held the position for three consecutive terms. During this time, he advanced the industry by stressing professionalism from all the developers and insisting on stringent safety and quality control on construction sites. Dr. Seraj was a former president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) and played a major role in developing the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) of Dhaka. He also participated in various forums and professional organizations to improve different building codes of Bangladesh. One of his last works, in April 2019, was to present the discrepancies between the fire regulations in different codes of Bangladesh.

Dr. Seraj was a former faculty member of BUET and had a wide range of publications, including several books on urban planning, housing, and real estate. For his education, he obtained his Ph.D. in Civic Design from the University of Liverpool, UK as a Commonwealth Scholar. Earlier, he completed his Master of Urban and Regional Planning and Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from BUET. His vision to provide beautiful and quality homes for the residents of Dhaka led Sheltech to develop over 3870 apartments all over the city, transforming Sheltech into a symbol of excellence in the real estate industry of Bangladesh. He left behind his vision to ensure beautiful urban living for the residents of Dhaka city. We at Sheltech express our deep gratitude for this exemplary leader and pray for the eternal peace of his departed soul.



Remembering the life & legacy of
DR. TOUFIQ M. SERAJ
1956-2019

Founding Managing Director of Sheltech

You built more than just a company. You live on in all the stories of Sheltech, a beacon of inspiration shining brightly in our hearts. Always & forever.



SAPPHIRE
SERIESSHELTECH
Pröttasha

Address
Rd 03, Dhanmondi



Type
Residential



Land Area
10 Katha



10 Storied
(B2+B1+G+M+8)



Apartment Size
2736 sft. (Approx)

Sheltech launched a brand-new **SAPPHIRE SERIES** residential project, Sheltech Pröttasha at Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Sheltech Pröttasha offers excellent in-house amenities and a beautiful community for those seeking an exclusive life at Dhanmondi. The project has a land area of 10 Katha and will feature a 10-storied (B2+B1+G+M+8) building with 16 innovatively designed apartments (Approximately 2736 sft.).

This sophisticated project is benefited by many locational advantages. The project is very near to

all day to day life amenities ranging from medical facilities, renowned educational institutions to popular shopping venues. Besides, well connectivity of the project from anywhere of the city is making the project more attractive to the residents. Sheltech Pröttasha will be a treat of a home with cool breeze from Dhanmondi Lake so as the greenery bedecked rooftop and ground space for the residents. Needless to say, as far as investments go, it doesn't get much better than this. Sales is ongoing for this beautiful project, so call **16550** to book your desired unit(s) today!

GROUND BREAKING OF SHELTECH SHAHANA VILLA

On June 26, 2025, Sheltech arranged a ground breaking ceremony of Sheltech Shahana Villa, one of the Sheltech's newest residential projects at Plot-7/9, Block-B, Lalmatia, Dhaka. The ground breaking ceremony was arranged at the project premises where Md. Sharif Hossain Bhuiyan, Executive Director (ED), Operations along with engineers, architects, and other professionals of Sheltech (Pvt.) Ltd. as well as the landowners of the project, were present during the ceremony.

Sheltech Shahana Villa is one of Sheltech's stunning residential projects in one of Dhaka's lucrative planned residential areas, Lalmatia. Set on a 06 Katha land area, this project features a 10-storied (G+Community+08) fully residential building with 10 modern apartments ranging from 1165 sq. ft. to 2330 sq. ft. With thoughtfully crafted modern architecture and a unique aesthetic, Sheltech Shahana Villa promises to be an exceptional place to live in Lalmatia. Contact our sales hotline today at **16550** to reserve your desired residence from Sheltech!



Ground Breaking Ceremony of Sheltech Shahana Villa at Lalmatia, Dhaka

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