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Poor sanitation cause dengue fever

QUETTA (PPI): The second spike of mosquito transmitted dengue fever and dengue hemorrhagic fever is the direct outcome of the combined negligence of public health institutions and municipal bodies as well as local governments. Poor sanitation facilities in thickly populated areas invite mosquito breeding, resulting in malaria and dengue outbreaks.

Dengue fever infects more than 50 million people, most of them children, worldwide annually during or after monsoon, mainly in the populous cities of tropical areas. In this part of the world, India was the first victim of this disease where ten thousand people

got infected and 80 died so far.

The second wave of dengue fever in Pakistan came in Karachi in October this year, where, according to official statistics, the number of people with dengue infection crossed 500 by the end of the same month. However, press reports put this number much higher.

Keeping in mind the aggravating situation in Karachi, the administration of other cities should have taken appropriate measures to cope with possible Karachi-like situation but nothing was done and the disease spread in various other cities of interior Sindh and Rawalpindi,

Islamabad and Peshawar in north. Although dengue does occur in only tropical areas, the passengers carrying dengue virus, probably, helped bring this disease to cities like Islamabad and Peshawar. The performance of federal and provincial governments remained confined to Press statements claiming that free testing facilities have been provided in all cities and fumigation campaigns are being started to stop mosquito breeding etc. The ground realities however, suggest otherwise. There are complaints in Karachi and other cities that Rs 700 to 800 are being charged to a patient to carry out blood tests in