

PHOTO OF THE DAY | SK ENAMUL HAQ



Fruits sold by the streets collect too much dust in too little time, so vendors have to spray water frequently to keep them fresh. The photo was taken yesterday at Farmgate.

'Investigate cases sincerely'

IGP directs officers as Police Week ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noting that majority of accused in criminal cases are being acquitted due to improper investigation, the inspector general of police (IGP) yesterday directed field-level police officials to investigate cases with more sincerity.

IGP Md Javed Patwary came up with the directives on the last day of "Police Week-2020" during a meeting with field level officials at Rajarbagh Police Auditorium. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the weeklong event on January 5.

Police officers ranked superintendent of police (SP) and above from across the country joined the four-hour long meeting, which started around 10am.

Top police officials raised different problems before the police chief and placed demands, according to meeting sources.

The demands include ambulances for district police hospitals, coordination meetings with district judges to reduce backlog of pending cases, initiating a "lost and found" app for stolen vehicles, and

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A patch-up job!

Palli Bidyut insulates 0.5km of 7.5km power line thru' forest to save monkeys from electrocution

STAR REPORT

After much protests, Palli Bidyut Samity have finally insulated the electrical power lines installed inside Mymensingh's Santoshpur Reserve Forest yesterday, that have reportedly caused burn injuries to monkeys in the forest, including at least one death.

But the officials only covered 0.5km of the total 7.50km power line inside the forest area, saying that the primates usually roam around in that area.

Officials of the forest department said Palli Bidyut only insulated a small part of the wires, saying that the number of primates is high there. "We demanded that they cover the entire power line of 7.5km. They just replaced 0.5km [of wires] and left," Ashraf Alam Khan, a beat officer of Bangladesh Forest Department, told our Mymensingh correspondent.

"We hope that the authorities will do so gradually for the safety of monkeys," said the official. "Monkeys roam in troops and other members can get hurt while trying to rescue or save a primate in danger," Ashraf said.

He said in May 2018, the forest department had asked the Palli Bidyut to refrain from laying any overhead power cable through the forest but they did not pay heed.

The reserve forest in Phulbaria upazila is habitat to various wildlife including more than 350 wild monkeys.

Contacted, Md Makbul Hossain, general manager of Palli Bidyut-1, said the power line was inaugurated on December 15 last year through the forest. "After learning about the recent incidents, we have decided to cover the wire."

As to why they decided to cover only half km power line, he said, "These primates generally remain in that area. There's no fear of accidents now."

Asked again how he could be so sure about their movement, he said, "We will think about insulating the entire line. We recently held a general manager-level meeting in the capital and have decided to install insulated power lines through reserved forests from now on."

At least one wild monkey died of electrocution and 10

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Vitamin-A campaign tomorrow

Over 2cr children to be given the capsule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Vitamin-A capsules distribution campaign will be observed across the country tomorrow, with an aim to feed all children -- aged between six months and five years -- the vitamin under a nationwide event.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque announced this at a press conference at Directorate General of Health Services yesterday.

Health workers and volunteers will feed capsules to around 2.1 crore children at 1.20 lakh permanent and 20,000 mobile centres -- from 8am to 4pm.

Some 25 lakh children aged between six and 12 months will be given one blue capsule each, while around 1.95 crore aged between one and five years would be given red ones. Parents are asked to make sure children are fed capsules on a full stomach. Also, they should not be given the vitamin forcibly or while crying. Children below six months or more than five years or with any kind of illness should not be given the capsule.

Petition seeks ban on using EVM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking a ban on the use of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) in the elections, claiming that the ordinance that allows its use is unconstitutional.

Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition, challenging legality of the Electronic Voting Machine Ordinance-2018 and its rules. He said it was not passed by the parliament.

EVM is not mandatory under clause 26(A) of the RPO and there was no necessity of formulating the 2018 ordinance, he said in the petition.

EVM was used in six constituencies in the December 30, 2018 polls, but the election was not fair, the petition said.

Man found dead in Mirpur's Tolarbag

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was found dead in his house at Tolarbag area of Mirpur in the capital on Wednesday.

The deceased is Anwar Hossain Nuri (45), from Patuakhali.

Tofail Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Darus Salam Police Station, said, "The deceased rented the house in the area recently. He used to live alone."

Being informed by locals, police recovered Anwar's body around noon. Police found the body with a scarf wrapped around the neck. There were also marks on his neck. Police suspect the scarf might have been used to strangle Anwar to death.

The body was sent to Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy. No one has been arrested as of last night.

DHAKA CITY POLLS Campaigning kicks off

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Mayoral and councillor aspirants are set to launch campaigning for the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) elections from today.

After the deadline ended for withdrawal of candidacy for the two city corporations, the EC yesterday said as of 6pm, 753 candidates -- 13 for mayor and 740 for councillor posts -- will run for the election, to be held on January 30.

DSCC According to the returning officer, on the last day of withdrawal of candidacy, 125 ward councillor aspirants and 20 reserved women councillor aspirants withdrew their candidacy in DSCC.

Now, 335 ward councillor aspirants and 82 reserved women councillor candidates are vying in the election.

The mayoral candidates in DSCC are: Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh (Awami League), Ishraque Hossain (BNP), Mohammad Saifuddin (Jatiya Party), Abdur Rahman (Islami Andolan Bangladesh), Md Akhtaruzzaman (Bangladesh Congress), Bahrane Sultan Bahar (National People's Party) and Abdus Samad (Gonofront).

DNCC In the north, 111 ward councillor aspirants and 12 reserved women councillor aspirants withdrew their candidacy. Now six mayoral candidates, 248 ward councillor aspirants and 75 reserved seat women councillor candidates are competing in the election.

The mayoral candidates in DNCC are: Atiqul Islam (AL), Tabitha Awal (BNP), Sajedul Huq Rubel (CPB), Sheikh Md Fazle Bari Masud (Islami Andolan Bangladesh), Shahin Khan (Progressive Democratic Party) and Anisur Rahman Dewan (National Peoples Party).

Candidates will be able to start campaigning immediately after the electoral symbols are allotted this morning. The campaign will continue till 32 hours before voting starts at 8am on January 30.

EC MAHBUB CONCERNED Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar yesterday said the "level playing field" would be hampered if important persons and beneficiaries within the government take part in electioneering.

"With concern, I'm noticing that parliament members are taking part in campaigns ahead of Dhaka north and south city corporation polls, which is a clear violation of the electoral code of conduct 2016," Mahbub said in an "unofficial note" to Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda.

According to electoral code of conduct for the city corporation elections, important persons within the government cannot take part in the pre-election campaign in the electoral areas, he said.

"It's not understandable to me how they are taking part in campaigning?"

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As the cold wave hits, people are flocking to footpath shops at New Market area to buy warm clothes. Consequently, sellers get to earn a bit more than the usual. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

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