

BLOOD DONATION
ICT Division
partners up
with Facebook

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division has partnered with Facebook and a local blood bank – Bloodman Bangladesh – to promote use of technology for better access to voluntary and safe blood supply.

Most blood banks in Bangladesh have been experiencing shortages since late March, due to the pandemic that restricted movement, but such a service is essential for saving lives, said officials concerned.

“It is still a struggle to get access to safe blood in Bangladesh. In a country of over 160 million people, the key challenge is lack of communication between seekers and donors,” said Sahariar Hasan Jisun, founder and chairperson of Bloodman Bangladesh, in a virtual discussion yesterday.

ICT Division, Facebook, Bloodman and Benchmark jointly organised the event.

Last week, ICT Division wrote a letter to health ministry, seeking its directives on hospitals, so that they use the Facebook

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Shah Alam and Bubly share a newspaper, sitting on the rickshaw van that serves both as their bed and livelihood, while their pet cat sits calmly in the middle. Shah Alam pulls the van to make a living, while physically-challenged Bubly waits for alms near the High Court. They said they have been following the news quite intensely in the last few months, for which the newspaper has been their only source. The photo was taken near Curzon Hall of Dhaka University.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

4 held over killing
of Khulna doctor

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Police have arrested four persons, including the main accused, in connection with the death of Dr Abdur Rakib Khan in Khulna.

The 59-year-old physician was assaulted by a patient’s family members on Monday night over the allegation of wrong treatment which led to her death. He passed away while undergoing treatment at a hospital on Tuesday.

So far, five persons have been arrested in the murder case, said Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner Khandaker Lutful Kabir.

The arrestees are: main accused Mohammad Jamir Uddin, Abul Ali Sheikh (husband of the deceased patient), Golam Mustafa and Khadija Begum.

Another accused Abdur Rahim was arrested on Tuesday night.

“We held them from Tongi and Rupsha area of Khulna during our raids,” the commissioner said. “We are also looking for another accused who is on the run.”

DOCTORS’ STRIKE WITHDRAWN FOR NOW

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) has withdrawn their strike for 72 hours considering the sufferings of patients. The announcement came at a press conference, organised by BMA at Khulna Press Club yesterday afternoon.

Following the death of Dr Rakib, BMA had decided to close all the medical institutions except the emergency department at KMCH and ones for treating Covid-19 patients until the accused were arrested.

Dr Sheikh Baharul Alam, president of BMA in Khulna and central vice-President of the organisation, said they have suspended the strike for 72 hours due to the sufferings of patients.

“But we gave two conditions: immediate withdrawal of the officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station and arrest of the accused.”

He alleged that the OC did not take accept the case immediately from Dr Rakib’s family. He took the case 18 hours after the doctor’s death.

Besides, there is a police box just 30 feet away from the

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PM commissions
warship ‘Sangram’

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh Navy needs to be further strengthened with modern technology-based knowledge to protect the country’s vast sea area and its resources.

She was commissioning a warship “BNS Sangram” from her official residence Gono Bhaban in the capital through a video conference.

The premier simultaneously said her government has attached priority on protecting the sea areas and utilising its huge resources in economy.

She said, “It is true that we want peace but at the same time we have to remain well prepared to face any attack. So, we want to build modern technology-based organisations to cope with the modern age.”

The government has formulated a perspective plan called “Forces Goal 2030” in light with the “Defence Policy” adopted by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1974 and started faster implementation accordingly to make the armed forces time worthy, said Hasina.

“We have already purchased many modern equipment including frigate and ships for Bangladesh Navy. I first handed over the Khulna Shipyard to the navy. I also handed over two dry docks of Narayanganj and Chattogram to the navy,” she said.

The PM said Bangladesh Navy has been transformed into a full-fledged three-dimensional force with inclusion two submarines in the force.

She hoped that the navy personnel would discharge their duties to safeguard the country’s maritime boundaries with utmost sincerity.

The prime minister said Bangladesh has achieved its rights in its vast sea areas after winning legal battle in the International Court against its two neighbours -- India and Myanmar -- with maintaining friendly relations with them.

She said Bangabandhu first took the initiative of establishing legal rights of Bangladesh in its sea areas soon after the independence, but the 1975 post governments did nothing to this end.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury

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State minister’s
ex-APS held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Hadis Mir, former assistant personal secretary (APS) to the state minister for water resources ministry, was detained by Barishal Metropolitan Police on Wednesday evening and handed over to a five-member DB team from Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Officer-in-Charge of Kawnia police Ajimul Karim said he is now in DB custody on various charges.

SI Asif, a member of the DB team from Dhaka, said the former APS has been taken to the DB office on Minto Road in the capital.

Contacted, Md Mahabub Alam, joint commissioner of DB Police, said Hadis was arrested with numerous rubber stamps of government offices bearing different names. “We’re investigating how these came to him and what he was doing with them.”

Hadis was removed as APS of State Minister Zaheed Farooque on June 16, confirmed in a letter signed by senior assistant secretary to the ministry.

Locals allege Hadis of various misdeeds, including misappropriation of money in government projects, suspicious wealth accumulation, beating up a couple in his native village at Sapania and handing them over to the police.

Brac to support
7,250 returnee
migrant workers

Announces Tk 3cr programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac has come forward to support 7,250 returnee migrant workers, who were affected financially by the Covid-19 pandemic, providing them support worth Tk 3 crore under a new programme.

Already, some 1,545 migrant workers have received the financial support through mobile banking service, said the organisation.

Others will receive the support similarly soon, they said. The financial support programme was launched formally during a virtual conference yesterday.

Shariful Hasan, head of Brac Migration Programme, said they scrutinised a list of over 16,000 returnee migrant workers to select the 7,250 beneficiaries with help from Brac and government officials in different districts.

He said Brac has plan to spend Tk 100 crore in the next three years for development of returnee migrant workers, including for skills training and long-term reintegration.

The Tk 3-crore programme has been implemented with help from Royal Danish Embassy, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Prottasha project, Children for Investment Fund Foundation and Brac UK, said organisers.

The beneficiaries are mainly returnees from Middle East, Southeast Asia, North African and some European countries.

They returned empty-handed either after losing jobs or facing financial hardship due to economic fallout caused by coronavirus pandemic.

Addressing the event as chief guest, Expatriates’ Welfare Ministry Secretary Ahmed Munirur Saleheen termed the initiative a timely step.

Employment opportunities for Bangladeshi migrant workers have declined significantly over the last five months, while remittance inflow also saw a downturn,

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LUMPY SKIN DISEASE IN CATTLE

Take immediate steps
in affected areas

Ministry tells livestock dept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fisheries and livestock ministry yesterday asked the department of livestock to take necessary steps immediately to stop the spread of lumpy skin diseases in cattle, which is characterised by nodules on the skin. The disease has spread at some parts of Dinajpur.

The ministry in a letter asked to form medical teams for every infected union headed by an upazila veterinary officer or a veterinary surgeon or livestock extension officer, said an official of fisheries at livestock ministry.

The team should also comprise a deputy assistant livestock officer or veterinary field assistant or a field assistant, the letter asked.

Lumpy skin disease is an infectious disease in cattle caused by a virus of the familyproxviridae, also known as Neethling virus. The disease is characterised by fever, enlarged superficial lymph nodes and multiple nodules on the skin and mucous membranes.

The ministry directed the teams to ensure necessary treatments to the infected cattle after visiting the infected areas.

The ministry also asked divisional and district livestock officials to monitor the field level activities of the medical teams.

Around 250 cattle were infected by the disease this year, mainly carried by flies or mosquitoes at three Upazilas of Dinajpur — Sadar, Khansama and Bochaganj, said Director General of Department of Livestock Dr Abdul Zabbar Shikdar.

Urging cattle owners to not panic, the

DG said early intervention can cure the disease easily.

He said if a cattle owner cleans the infected areas with potash and uses a particular ointment afterwards, the disease will be cured within two to three days.

Dr Zabbar said their livestock workers are employed at the field level to help cattle owners.

He said he had talked to three farmers on Wednesday who have around 110 cows and almost all the infected cows have been cured. The DG suggested the cattle owners to use mosquito net as mosquito and flies are carriers.

Zabbar said the drugs are available and they are also providing vaccine so that new cattle cannot be infected.

The livestock department DG also said first outbreak of the disease happened in some upazilas of the country in Chhattogram and Bhola last year.

Entomologist of Jahangirnagar University Kabirul Bashar said the disease is primarily transmitted by mosquitoes, flies and ticks.

He said owners will have to isolate the infected cattle, wash the animals, then put ointments on the sore spots.

He said if proper caring are not taken, a cattle can died of the disease.

The disease has dramatic effect on rural livelihoods, which are often strongly dependent on livestock. The disease can slash milk production and may lead to sterility in bulls and fertility problems in females, Bashar said.

Phone salesman
mugged of Tk 35
lakh in Rajshahi

Cops suspect ‘inside involvement’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A mobile phone sales representative was mugged in broad daylight in Rajshahi city’s New Market area yesterday morning while he was going to deposit Tk 35 lakh cash at a bank.

Md Faisal, the sales representative of Vivo Mobile Phone was detained for interrogation as the police suspected he himself might be involved with the mugging, Nibaran Chandra Burman, OC of Boalia police station said.

The incident occurred at 11:45am, minutes after Faisal got out of the dealer’s shop carrying the money in a bag over his shoulder.

At that time, a friend of the dealer, Badsha, was accompanying Faisal. He was carrying another bag containing Tk 3 lakh in cash from the same mobile phone dealer for depositing the money at the same bank.

The police gathered a video footage of the incident and said, it shows that two unidentified muggers in a motorcycle took the bag from Faisal’s shoulder while passing them slowly as they were walking towards a nearby bank through a busy road.

“The victim of mugging gave misleading information and his statement contradicts our initial inquiry into the incident,” the OC said.

When the police reached the scene, the victim showed the spot of occurrence which later turned out to be over 100 yards from the actual spot, the OC added.

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People’s love for mango appears to be stronger than their need for social distancing amid the pandemic, as is evident from the small crowd gathered around mango carts in Tejgaon yesterday. The fruit is still in the market beyond its usual season, but it has clearly not overstayed its welcome, judging by the tremendous demand.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Road accidents
take seven lives

STAR REPORT

Seven people were killed in road accidents during the last two days, according to our correspondents in three districts.

In Dinajpur, two people were killed as a motorcycle they were riding hit a truck parked on Dinajpur-Panchagarh highway of Birganj upazila on Wednesday, said police.

The accident occurred in Prembazar area while Jahangir Alam (30) and Abul Hossain were going to Birganj upazila headquarters from their Nijpara village, said law enforcers.

They succumbed to their injuries at Birganj Upazila Health Complex.

In Joypurhat, two battery-run auto-rickshaws collided head-on on Himchi-Pathanpara road in Guabarighat of Sadar upazila yesterday morning, leaving a passenger dead and four others injured.

The deceased was identified as Farzana, said police, adding that the injured were admitted to Joypurhat Modern Hospital.

In Sirajganj, two trucks collided head-on at Talukderbazar in Kamarkhand upazila on Wednesday, leaving four transport workers dead, said police.

Of the victims, Johurul Islam (28), driver of a brick-laden truck, Mithun (22) and Anonto (16) died on the spot, said Sayed Shahid Alam, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge West Zone Police Station.

Another transport worker, Omar Faruk, succumbed to his injuries at 250-bed Bangomata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib General Hospital early yesterday, he said.

The accident took place as the two truck drivers lost control over the steering, said the OC.

Police seized both the trucks from the spot, said the officer.