

6 new markets for essentials planned

STAR REPORT

The Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Ministry yesterday decided to set up six new wholesale essentials markets in Dhaka to keep prices within reasonable limits by lowering transportation and preservation costs.

The ministry has chosen Tongi, Gabtoli, Jatrabari, Hatirjheel, Khilgaon and Lalbagh as the areas to build the markets in.

The LGRD ministry formed a 10-member committee headed by Commerce Secretary Suhel Ahmed in January last and assigned it to find suitable places for the markets. The committee to date has specified venues for three markets.

Construction of the market in Tongi will start first, in the next fiscal year, and an architect will be appointed soon as consultant to finalise its design, meeting sources said.

The Tongi wholesale market will be housed in a six-storey building, with the first three floors as the actual market place. The wholesal-

ers and transport operators will have their offices in the third floor while housing apartments for the market operators will occupy the fourth and the fifth floors. A half-a-mile-long access road will also be built from the Turag river to the market.

Construction of the markets in Gabtoli and Jatrabari will commence sometimes later.

Though the exact spots for the remaining three markets are not determined yet, it has been decided that the present Karwan Bazar wholesale market will be relocated to the fourth market in Hatirjheel. The location selection committee is scheduled to visit the area tomorrow to identify a suitable place.

Explaining the rationale of the new markets, Commerce Secretary Suhel Ahmed said, "We've noticed that prices of essentials differ a lot between those in the city and just outside it."

He noted, "For instance, a commodity that costs three taka outside Dhaka City, is priced at 16 taka in the city markets, just because of

transportation and preservation problems."

"When we finish constructing these modern markets, which will be easily accessible by road and waterways and have proper goods preservation facilities, we believe the prices of essentials will come down to a reasonable level," Suhel adds.

The Tongi market will occupy an 8.6-acre plot of land near the Tongi Bridge and beside the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway. Most of the land, lying idle for the last 32 years, belongs to Atlas Bangladesh Ltd and the government owns the rest.

The Gabtoli market will be set up on a 13-acre plot on the south-west of the inter-district bus terminus. A chunk of this land belongs to Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, a part is public land on the flood protection dam and the rest belongs to private owners.

The Jatrabari market will be built on a 6-acre plot east of Demra Police Station and north of Dhaka-Chittagong highway.



Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain speaks at a roundtable at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. Health Education Bureau organised the roundtable to mark the World Health Day.

Road accidents cost country Tk 4,000cr a yr

Health minister tells roundtable

UNB, Dhaka

Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain at a roundtable yesterday said road accidents cost the country Tk 4,000 crore every year apart from claiming the lives of 4,000 people and injuring 5,000 others.

"But the losses and casualties can be minimised significantly by raising awareness among the motor drivers and their users," Dr Mosharraf said.

The roundtable was organised by Health Education Bureau under the Health Ministry at CIRDAP auditorium, marking World Health Day.

Dr Mosharraf said it is possible to minimise road accidents by making the drivers dutiful and improving their skills.

Chaired by Health Secretary AFM Sarwar Kamal, the roundtable was attended by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Vice

Chancellor MA Hadi, WHO Country Representative Dr Sunity Acharya, DG of Health Directorate Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman, BRTC Chairman Advocate Toimur Alam Khandokar, Director of Accident Research Centre of BUET Prof Mazharul Haq and Director of Pangu Hospital Prof Dr Sirajul Islam.

Transport worker burnt to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A transport worker was burned to death and five others were injured when three buses caught fire from a snapped high-voltage cable at Kutib bus terminal in Kasba upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

The six transport workers were

sleeping in the buses when the snapped cable sparked off the blaze at around 2.30am, leaving 20-year-old Kalu Mia, son of Abu Taher, dead.

The overhead power line snapped and fell on the buses parked along the highway near the terminal as a speeding truck

crashed into an electric pole, fire service sources said.

The fire fighters brought the blaze under control at around 5:00am.

The loss was estimated at Tk 30 lakh as the buses were reduced to wreckage, sources said.

Police seized the truck.

DHARMASAGAR CHURCH

PM's directive to resolve land dispute

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday directed the ministry concerned to resolve the matter relating to the

land of a church at Dharmasagar in Comilla town.

The directive came when her attention was drawn to an appeal made by executive secretary on

behalf of the United Baptist Church Trust Association through an advertisement published in a vernacular daily yesterday.

The association executive secretary said the land of the church located in Chotra mouza at the centre of Comilla town has been occupied.

The trust had tried its best to recover the land but could not succeed, the executive secretary mentioned in the advertisement and urged the prime minister to give necessary directive to the authorities concerned to resolve the matter.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and the lowest 19.7 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:18pm today and rises at 6:06am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.4	21.7	53	62
Chittagong	34.0	22.7	74	65
Rajshahi	30.8	20.5	79	82
Khulna	32.5	23.2	74	75
Barisal	32.0	21.6	78	87
Sylhet	30.2	21.0	81	76
Cox's Bazar	34.0	23.0	73	65

Trader kidnapped in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

An armed gang kidnapped a trader from Kachhaptali in Roangchhari upazila Wednesday night and demanded a ransom of Tk 2 lakh for his release.

CPJ condemns attack on Jugantor journo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), a New York-based media rights watchdog, has condemned the attack on Delwar Hossain, Keraniganj correspondent of the daily Jugantor in the city on April 4.

"We are outraged by this violent attack on our colleague Delwar Hossain," CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper said, adding "The people responsible for this crime must be found and held accountable in a court of law."

Delwar was at the office of an advertising firm on DIT Avenue when two youths entered there and shot him in the head and back at around 4.00pm.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he is recovering after surgery.

Talking to fellow reporters in the hospital yesterday, Delwar accused a local criminal group of ordering the attack on him in retaliation for his reporting about their illegal activities.

One gets life for throwing acid on wife, daughter

BSS, Rajshahi

One person has been sentenced to life-term imprisonment for throwing acid on his wife and daughter at Swarupnagar in Chapainawabganj town about two years ago.

The convict identified as Zahed Ali, 52, of Lalpur village under Gomostapur upazila of the district was also fined Tk 50,000 or, in default, to suffer three years more rigorous imprisonment.

The District and Sessions Judge Miaz Uddin pronounced the judgement in a crowded courtroom here on Wednesday.

According to the prosecution story, Zahed Ali used to torture his

Bandarban poura chairman removed

BSS, Bandarban

Chairman of Bandarban Pourasabha Alhaj Md Ayub Chowdhury was removed from his post on Wednesday by a Presidential order.

Deputy Commissioner Md Hafizur Rahman told newsmen here yesterday that a copy of the order was sent to the DC by fax from the Local Government Division of the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives.

He said number one panel chairman Md Islam Babu already has taken over as the chairman. The next pourasabha election in Bandarban will be held on May 6.

Earlier, 11 poura commissioners, out of 12, in a joint statement expressed their no confidence in Alhaj Md Ayub Chowdhury and submitted it to the DC on March 20.

wife Taslima Khatun, 27, for dowry. At one stage, she along with their two-year daughter Ayesha Khatun left her husband and managed a job as housemaid at Swarupnagar.

Failing to get the dowry, Zahed Ali threw acid on his wife and daughter at night on May 7 in 2002 while they were sleeping.

Victim Taslima lodged a case the following day with the concerned police station accusing her husband.

Public Prosecutor Mahfuzur Rahman Sentu conducted the case on behalf of the state while Advocate Sadrul Amin appeared for the accused.



Installation ceremony

The installation ceremony of Pakundia Samity, Dhaka will be held. Venue: ICMA Bhaban auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 3.00pm.

Art competition

Save the Youth Forum organises discussion and art competition for the children to mark Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 2.45pm.

Painting exhibition

The opening ceremony of the retrospective exhibition of paintings by Shamsul Islam Nazami, professor of the Institute of Fine Arts, will be held. Venue: Saju Art Gallery, Gulshan-2. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open until April 19 from 10.00am to 8.30pm daily. The sale proceeds from this exhibition will go for the treatment of the ailing artist.

Ceramics and wood art show

The inaugural ceremony of 'Ceramics and Wood Art Exhibition' organised by the Vertical, a group of artists, will be held. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 3.00pm. The exhibition will remain open from 12.00 noon to 8.00pm daily until April 22.

Tagore song festival

Abhyudoy Sangeet Angan organises its 5th Tagore song festival and reception to celebrities. Venue: Liberation War Museum premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 4.30pm.

Guitar recital

Bangladesh Guitarist Association organises a recital of guitar by eminent guitarists from across the country. Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial auditorium, Central Public Library. Time: 5.00pm.

Drama festival

As part of the weeklong drama festival of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangaza Natyam of Gazipur will stage a drama titled 'Modhuchandrima'. Venue: Theatre hall of the academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Around the World in 80 Days' (1956) and a British film titled 'Calendar Girls' (2003). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time:

3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Award giving ceremony

The award giving ceremony of Lekhika Sangha Sahitya Padak 2003, organised by Bangladesh Lekhika Sangha, will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Mahila Samity auditorium, New Bailey Road. Time: 9.30am.

Finance and Banking alumni convention

The Finance and Banking Alumni Association of Dhaka University will hold its first alumni convention with Vice-Chancellor Prof. S M A Faiz as chief guest. Venue: BDR Darbar Hall. Time: 3.30pm.

BFUJ convention

The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will hold a national convention with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.00am.

DU alumni meeting

A preparatory general meeting of the Dhaka University Marketing Alumni Association will be held. Venue: Business Studies auditorium of the university. Time: 4.00pm.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of 'this n that'- a house of exclusive gifts- will be held. Venue: 41, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani. Time: 5.00pm.

Triennial meeting

The triennial meeting of Dhaka Mahanagar Samity (Dhaka Samity) will be held. Venue: Mahanagar Natya Mancha, Gulistan. Time: 7.00pm.

Biennial conference

The biennial conference of the Jatiya Sramik Jote will be held with eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain as chief guest. Venue: 21/2, Purana Paltan. Time: 10.00am.

Krishok conference

The national conference of Bangladesh Krishok Federation will be held. Venue: Paltan Maidan. Time: 10.00am.

Get-together

A get-together of Dhaka-based Golapganj Upazila Samity will be held. Venue: Hotel Zakaria, Mohakhali. Time: 5.00pm.

RU IBA admission test Apr 16

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Institute of Business Administration of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday announces a fresh schedule of IBA admission test.

According to the new schedule,

the deadline for submitting application forms for admission into MBA (evening) programme has been extended up to April 13. And the admission test will be held at 10.00am on April 16.