



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over a cabinet meeting at the Secretariat in the city yesterday.

Sunamganj-4 declared vacant

BSS, Dhaka

The Sunamganj-4 constituency has been declared vacant from April 17 afternoon due to death of elected member of the parliament Begum Momtaj Iqbal, said a circular issued by Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat yesterday.

JMB operative held in Naogaon

UNB, Naogaon

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) police in a drive on Sunday arrested an alleged JMB operative at Ukippara Mahalla in the district town.

CID Inspector Shahidul Islam arrested Abdul Gaffer, a close accomplice of Bangla Bhai, of Bashbaria village at Raninagar upazila.

Later, the JMB militant was sent to the court.

Police said Gaffer established a torture camp at his house at the behest of Bangla Bhai in 2004. He used to torture innocent people in the name of punishing terrorists.

In another incident, police in a drive arrested a fugitive convict from Pirojpur area of the town on Saturday midnight.

The arrestee was identified as Asad, 50, of the area and leader of inter-district robber gang.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the law enforcers arrested him while he was returning home from his hideout.

Police said he was wanted in 12 robbery and killing cases, adding that he was convicted and sentenced to two years by a court five years ago.

300 DU students fall sick a day due to heatwave

DU CORRESPONDENT

Over 300 Dhaka University (DU) students are falling sick every day due to ongoing scorching heat.

According to sources at university medical centre, over 300 students, attacked by viral fever, cough, throat and chest pain, diarrhoea and skin diseases, are taking treatment from the centre daily.

They said the present number of patient is almost double than the normal time.

From April 19 to 25, a total of 2001 students took treatment at the allopathic section of the centre whereas this number was 1220 during a period from March 19 to 25.

Sources at the allopathic section said around 40 students who do not have health card are also taking treatment without registration from them daily whereas around 50 stu-

dents are receiving treatment from the homeopathic section everyday.

"Majority of the students are attacked by viral fever, cough and throat pain while some are attacked by diarrhoea and skin diseases due to extreme hot weather," said Chief Medical Officer Dr AKM Abdur Rahman while talking to The Daily Star.

"These diseases are contagious too. General students should remain aloof from the affected students who should avoid unhygienic food and stop roaming under the sun," he added.

Prof Sagarmoy Barua, director of the Institute of Food and Nutrition, told The Daily Star that food at DU canteens should be prepared in hygienic way cautioning that unhygienic food may aggravate the situation.

Some canteens of university dormitories were fined by mobile courts last year for preparing food in unhygienic manner.

More ADB support for Padma Bridge assured

BSS, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), in addition to its earlier commitments, is considering more funds for the construction of the Padma Bridge.

The assurance came during a meeting between Communications Minister Sved Abul Hossain and an eight-member ADB delegation led by Director of South Asian Transport and Communications (SATC) Kazuhiko Higuchi and Country Director BRM Paul J Hey Ten at the secretariat in the city.

Consultants have already been appointed to prepare the design for the bridge, he said.

The minister also said development partners have also assured Dhaka of providing about US\$ 1,200 million, out of total 1,800 million dollars.

He thanked the ADB delegation for increasing the financial support.

The meeting also discussed the progress of ADB-assisted various development projects in the communications sector.

The minister also sought ADB support for installation of rail lines on both sides of the Padma Bridge, construc-

tion work of the bridge beginning next year, the minister said the government has taken all necessary steps to complete the work within the tenure of the present government.

Consultants have already been appointed to prepare the design for the bridge, he said.

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Secretary of Rail Division M Abdul Karim, Secretary of Roads and Highways Department ASM Ali Kabir, Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Munshi Mustafizur Rahman were present at the meeting.

Referring to the construction work of the bridge beginning next year, the minister said the government has taken all necessary steps to complete the work within the tenure of the present government.

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