

NEWS IN *brief*

DoE fines Japan Garden City Ltd

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined Japan Garden City Ltd, a housing project in the capital's Mohammadpur, Tk 26 lakh for constructing buildings without environment clearance certificates.

The department revealed in a press release that the company evaded Tk 62.5 lakh as environment clearance fees for its 26 high-rise buildings.

On visiting the area, DoE Director (Enforcement) Mohammad Munir Chowdhury summoned Japan Garden City Managing Director Wahiduzzaman to the DoE office yesterday.

The MD being abroad, the company DGM Shafiqul Islam and Manager Shawkat Imran went to the DoE office when Munir fined the company.

Back in 2001, the DoE gave the company placement clearance against only one apartment. But, the company constructed 26 buildings in the area, without taking environment clearance certificate for any,

Dubai expatriate commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An expatriate Bangladeshi who lives in Dubai allegedly committed suicide at his residence in Banglabazar of Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong early yesterday.

The body of Azizul Haq, 36, who came to Bangladesh two months back, was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his living room, said police quoting family members.

Informed by Azizul's family, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

An unnatural death case was filed in this con-

Six businesses fined in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday fined six businesses Tk 1.4 lakh in Chittagong.

The mobile court led by Zubayer Ahmed, deputy director of Directorate of National Consumers Rights Protection in Chittagong, fined four eateries -- Candy Tk 50,000, Café Alam Tk 30,000, Asian Kebab and Biriani House Tk 25,000 and Niribili Hotel Tk 20,000 -- for preparing food in dirty environments.

The court also fined two shops -- New Food Parler and Mojumder Store -- Tk 5,000 and Tk 10,000 respectively for selling commodities without price and weight tags.

Two held with arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested two alleged muggers at Chandgaon in Chittagong city on Saturday and seized a locally made light gun, a bullet, a machete and three knives from their possession.

The arrestees were Md Tipu, 20, of the area and Md Zakir, 25, of Ukhia upazila in Cox's Bazar.

A case was filed with Chandgaon Police Station



PHOTO: STAR

Agitating students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology burn effigies of Vice-Chancellor Prof SM Nazrul Islam and Pro-VC Prof M Habibur Rahman on the campus yesterday demanding their resignation. *Inset*, Activists of pro-Awami League student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League try to break open the door of a balcony that leads to the VC's office after the agitating students inside the office closed the door over fear of attacks by the BCL activists.

MEGHNA, MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES Temporary repair starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Temporary repair works on Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges, two key bridges on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, began in the early hours yesterday to keep the structures fit for traffic movement for three months.

Officials said Malaysian Hercules Engineering, selected to do the repairs under a Tk 150 crore project, and Bangladesh Army will begin the long term repair works at the end of this year.

The six-hour repairs, during which traffic movement is off-limit on these sections of the highway, begin at midnight everyday and will continue till September 7.

Steel plates were being placed between the damaged expansion joints on the top part of the bridges and while the damaged hinge bearings underneath were being replaced as the damages have turned traffic movement risky.

The officials said Meghna bridge will be repaired in three nights while Meghna-Gumti in four nights.

On the first night's effort, the Malaysian firm fixed only two out of nine badly damaged expansion joints of Meghna bridge. Two more nights are needed to fix the remaining expansion joints.

During a visit to the Meghna bridge on the early hours of Sunday, the workers were seen struggling to keep the pace due to inadequate light and power outlets both on and beneath the bridge.

The first night's repair works were also hampered due to a visit by acting communications secretary MAN Siddique, Roads and Highways Department Chief Engineer Aminur Rahman Laskar and some other officials.

Many of them brought their vehicles which obstructed the repair works.

Placing of wrong steel plates on the wrong expansion joints also delayed the repairs.

The Malaysian technicians and their local staff mistakenly placed smaller plates on an expansion joint. The plates were removed when an army officer detected the mistake. In the meantime nearly two hours had gone by.

Bangladesh Army, which was given the responsibility to do the repair job in June, is assisting the Malaysian technicians.

The authorities concerned are stopping vehicles coming from Dhaka at Kanchpur bridge at 11:00pm and diverting those toward Narsingdi while stopping those from Chittagong at Mainamoti and diverted those toward Brahmanbaria.

This means that traffic movement from Kanchpur bridge to Mainamoti remains suspended for seven hours.

The government has arranged an alternative route to divert around 30,000 vehicles plying the highway each day.

The detour for the Dhaka-Chittagong traffic is Dhaka-Bhairab-Brahmanbaria-Moinamati-Chittagong.

Voter list updating begins tomorrow in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will begin updating the voter lists of the areas under Dhaka south and north city corporations tomorrow, said Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad.

Enumerators will go door to door to collect information about prospective voters to register them on the electoral rolls and delete names of the dead from the lists, the CEC said yesterday at a training workshop of enumerators in Rajuk Uttara Model College Auditorium in the capital.

The commission will begin the task with Uttara and Sabujbag. Updating of voter lists of Gulshan, Dhanmondi, Demra, Motijheel, Cantonment, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Lalbagh, Kotwali, Sutrapur, Tejgaon, Ramna,

and Pallabi will begin on September 15, he said.

"There is no alternative to flawless voter lists for a free and fair election," Rakibuddin said, adding that he did not want to see any complication in the polls because of erroneous voter lists.

He made the remark in context of the controversial voter lists prepared by the Justice MA Aziz-led EC in the run-up to the ninth parliamentary polls scheduled for January 22, 2007.

The scheduled polls could not be held due to declaration of a state of emergency amid political turmoil. Erroneous voter list was one of the major reasons for the turmoil.

The current EC has recruited 3,319 enumerators and 668 supervisors for updating the voter lists of the areas under the divided Dhaka city corporations.



National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports brings out a procession in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday to press home the committee's seven-point demand for a permanent solution to the electricity crisis.

PHOTO: STAR

Discussion
Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will organise a discussion; Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy; Time: 11:00am.

Protest procession
Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra will hold a protest procession; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:30am.

Sit-in
Bangladesh Union Parishad Secretary Samity will stage a sit-in; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Human chain
Citizens' Initiatives on CEDAW,

Bangladesh will form a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Parliamentary styled debate competition
Debate for Democracy will organise a parliamentary styled debate competition; Venue: Bashundhara City; Time: 2:30pm.

Discussion
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:30pm.

Sit-in
Nagorik Sanghati will stage a sit-in;



PHOTO: STAR

Six thieves who were arrested with thirteen stolen vehicles, including eight saloon cars, three minibuses, one pickup van and a motorcycle, at the office of the Detective Branch of police in the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Mobile eye care project launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around three lakh patients with eyesight complications, especially those suffering from retinopathy disease, will receive eye care services from a newly introduced mobile eye care project in the country.

Under the project, which is run by two mobile diabetic retinopathy screening and treatment units, services can be provided to 250 patients per day.

The project styled "BADAS-ORBIS Eye Care Project" was unveiled at the office of Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences Hospital, a sister concern of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS), which will run it for the next two and half years.

The association will primarily work in Dhaka and then move to other parts of the country, said Sayed Foysal Ahmed, project manager of eye care plan.

For the first time BADAS has taken an initiative to provide eye care services at district level, he added.

Along retinopathy disease, other common eye diseases such as peripheral neuropathy and cataract will be diagnosed under the project.

The aim of the project is to prevent blindness due to diabetic retinopathy in underserved areas of the country by increased access to eye care, screening and treatment services.

According to BADAS, around six percent of the total population is suffering from diabetes in the country. This number is around 5.7 million and 25 percent of them are susceptible to retinopathy disease.

Prof AK Azad Khan, president of BADAS, said the mobile eye care services would continue through different works after the expiry of the current project.

World Diabetes Foundation is funding the project.



Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:14pm and rises tomorrow at 5:42am.

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 25.0 degrees at Rangamati and Srirangal.

The highest and the 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	34.4	28.1	76	67
Chittagong	32.0	25.8	80	81
Rajshahi	36.0	27.0	82	69
Rangpur	34.0	27.0	84	70
Khulna	33.7	27.0	89	83
Barisal	32.6	26.2	93	76
Sylhet	31.0	26.0	83	80
Cox's Bazar	33.2	25.2	68	80