

## Torrential rain submerges Dhaka again

Different areas in capital went under knee-deep water causing sufferings for commuters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Torrential rain, which put different areas of the capital from ankle-deep to knee-deep water yesterday, disrupted city life, causing immense sufferings for commuters.

Commuters mostly school- and office-goers faced problems in reaching their destinations in the morning due to huge traffic congestion triggered by the rain that started yesterday morning.

The capital's different areas including Baridhara, Sukrabad, Paschim Rajabazar, Green Road, Paschim Testuri Bazar, Tollabag, Alubazar, Shuritola, Najirabazar, DIT plot of Gandaria, road behind the Bangabhaban, Shantinagar, Mouchak and Fakirapool went under knee-deep water.

The rainwater compelled many commuters to walk miles for going to their destination leaving buses that stuck to the nearly unending tailback.

Vast areas

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School-goers wade through water in the capital's flooded Arambagh area yesterday with the risk of falling into hidden manholes without lids or craters that usually pervade the city streets. Rain inundated different parts of Dhaka with ankle-deep to knee-deep water due to a poor drainage system and wholesale filling of floodplains.

DHAKA-MYMENSINGH HIGHWAY

## Rain creates 10hr tailback

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The Dhaka-Mymensingh highway experienced a 10-hour-long tailback yesterday as the under construction road developed pot-holes due to incessant down-pour of the last few days, causing untold sufferings for the passengers.

Parts of the highway at different points including Joydebpur Chowrasta, Salna, Purabari, Rajendrapur Chowrasta, Hotapara, Mawna and Nayanpur Bazar were badly damaged, stretching the traffic congestion up to 40 km.

Besides, seasonal fruit and vegetable laden trucks also stuck on the highway for hours in the tailback that started from 4:00am.

However, the vehicular movement started to be normal around 4:00pm after Roads and Highways Department with the help of highway police repaired the damaged parts of the road with brick chips.

Sanwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Mawna Highway Police Station, said construction works of a four-lane project from Joydebpur to Mymensingh

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## FLU, MENINGITIS Govt orders all hajis to be inoculated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday directed all Bangladeshi Hajji pilgrims to take the mandatory influenza and meningitis vaccinations as a safety precaution against the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

Jahangir Alam, deputy secretary at the religious affairs ministry, said all pilgrims have to take the two vaccines, but many do not.

This year the government will monitor whether all the pilgrims take the two vaccines as Saudi Arabia emphasised the need for taking necessary measures against the MERS virus, he told The Daily Star.

The health ministry will ensure that all government hospitals and civil surgeons administer the vaccines to

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## DU syndicate allocates little for research

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) syndicate Sunday night approved a budget of Tk 373.88 crore for the fiscal year of 2014-15, with a "very low allocation" in the education and research sector.

Pro-Vice-chancellor (administration) Prof Shahid Akhter Hossain, also acting treasurer, will place the budget at the annual Senate session likely to be held tomorrow for final approval.

The lion's share of the budget, Tk 295.71 (79.10%) crore, was expected to be spent on the salaries of teachers and officials, while a total of Tk 70.86 crore is allocated for the education and research sectors.

Some of the syndicate members said that the allocation in the education and research had narrowed down the scope for extensive research.

"DU expenditure is met depending on government's allocation, and we cannot spend more as our own income is very limited," said syndicate member Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed, also dean of social sciences faculty.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is expected to provide Tk 295.71 crore, and Tk 32 crore will come from the internal income of the university.

## Vulture population drop threat to human health

Experts tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The elimination of vultures is posing serious threats to human health in the country, as other birds and animals like dogs, rats, crows are consuming the carcasses of infected animals and spreading diseases like anthrax, rabies, said experts at a roundtable yesterday.

Only vultures can digest meat at any stage of decay, but other animals cannot and thus spread the germs from the carcasses through their droppings, they said.

The vulture population has declined to only 500 in Bangladesh due to the use of some non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ketoprofen and salicylate for treating cattle.

Consumption of carcasses treated with NSAIDs such as diclofenac ketoprofen, sodium salicylate are the primary cause of vulture mortality, according to research.

The speakers demanded the government implement the ban on such medicines.

The decline in the vulture population and the increase in zoonotic diseases of human are directly co-related, said eminent

bird expert Enam Ul Haque, presenting his keynote paper, "Vultures and Public Health".

Citing different studies conducted in India, he showed how zoonotic diseases like anthrax, rabies which are transmitted from animals to human are increasing there. "Though we don't have any such study here, we can say the effect of vulture declination would be same here too."

The government earlier banned another drug called diclofenac, but it is still available in the market and people are using it illegally.

"Diclofenac is being used in 16 percent cases. However, alternative effective medicines for cattle which are safe vultures are available," said Enam.

The scenario of vultures is same in whole South Asia, as 99.9 percent of vultures have disappeared there in the last two decades due to the use of NSAIDs.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) organised the roundtable at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

## NON-FORMAL EDUCATION ACT Cabinet okays final draft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the final draft of "Non-Formal Education Act-2014" aiming to ensure primary education for all and boost the quality of non-formal education.

As per the proposed law, a non-formal education board would be constituted for managing non-formal education, M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, the cabinet secretary, told reporters after the meeting at the Bangladesh Secretariat.

According to the law, people above the age of 14, including dropouts and the elderly, will be given non-formal education.

Anyone who violates the law or obstructs it will be sentenced to six months' imprisonment and fined Tk 50,000, said the cabinet secretary.

The cabinet also approved the draft of an agreement to be signed by Bangladesh's military museum and Kuwait's House of National Work.

The deal would allow the two museums to display each other's military equipment.

The cabinet also gave a nod to a deal on air services to be signed with the European Union, added the cabinet secretary.

Meanwhile, regarding the ongoing drive against formalin, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the drive would have to be carried out in a way so that fruit vendors are not harmed or harassed.

## Obituary

CITY DESK

Md Tabibul Huq, an industrialist, social worker and vice chairman of Mercantile Bank Ltd, died at United Hospital in the capital yesterday. He was 62.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter.

He was the managing director of Creative Engineers Ltd and Creative Paper Mills Ltd.

He obtained Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from BUET in 1975. Initially, he joined Bangladesh Army and was awarded the "Chief of Army Staff's Cane" for outstanding performance in the training of BMA.

## AHSANULLAH MASTER MURDER Convict dies at DMCH

CITY DESK

A convict in Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master murder case died yesterday at Dhaka Medical College Hospital a day after he was admitted there.

Al Amin, 36, son of Joynal Abedin, of Narayanganj, was admitted to the hospital with Kidney complications, said DMCH sources.

A Dhaka court on April 16, 2005, handed down death sentence to 22 people, including Al Amin, for shooting the AL leader dead at a rally of Swechhasebak League in Tongi in 2004.

The case is now pending with High Court.

Tongi police said Al Amin fell sick at Kashimpur-2 central jail on June 17. He was shifted to DMCH from Gazipur Sadar Hospital, reports our Gazipur correspondent.

Md Munna, nephew of the deceased, claimed that Al Amin was a vegetable vendor of Tongi and local Awami league leaders implicated him in the case.

## PROPOSED BUDGET No allocation for climate change fund worries TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday expressed its concern as the government did not allocate any fund for the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) in the proposed budget for the fiscal year of 2014-15.

In a statement, it urged the government to allocate due fund for the BCCTF before finalising the budget and to maintain transparency and accountability while using it.

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Dean of Independent University's School of Life Sciences Dr Rita Yusuf cuts a cake to celebrate the school's one year anniversary recently. Vice Chancellor Prof M Omar Rahman along with other deans, senior administrative staff, faculty members and students are present.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Robbers kill guard in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers killed a security guard of a building in the capital's New Eskaton early yesterday and took away around Tk 8 lakh and 33 tolas of gold ornaments.

The deceased, Abdur Rahim, 40, was a staff of Runa Security Service.

Robbers strangled the guard of the three-storey building near Abir General Hospital and broke open its collapsible gate and entered the first floor, said Mahsiure Rahman, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station.

Selima Banu, 70, her granddaughter Munia Akter and four domestic helps were in the flat during the robbery.

Munia told The Daily Star that around 13 to 14 masked robbers with sharp weapons entered their flat around 3:30am and took away the gold ornaments, Tk 5 lakh and US dollar 4,000.

Police recovered the body of the guard in the morning. Police detained four persons for interrogation in this connection.



Chief of Bangladesh Naval Staff Vice Admiral M Farid Habib hands over the "Sword of Honour" to the best midshipman of the batch 2012/B in the passing out parade at the Naval Academy in Patenga in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ISPR

## EDEN COLLEGE Two BCL factions clash over sponsorship money

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League clashed at Eden Mohila College yesterday over sharing the money they collected from different companies to set up two giant screens for showing World Cup matches at two halls and let the businesses advertise themselves on the sidelines of the screens.

The college unit BCL president, Shamim Ara Nipa, and general secretary, Esrat Jahan, have collected the money, and

started altercating over their shares yesterday, said students and BCL sources. At one point, the quarrel turned into a clash between their followers.

The college principal, Husne Ara, however, denied that it was about money. She said they were just squabbling over supporting teams.

She also said, "We haven't given permission to them to bring the screens and advertisements."

The two big screens were set up at Ayesha Siddiqa Hall and Razia Hall.

## M-health can cut deaths

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health professionals' presence at workplace in time. "In Bangladesh you can take digital fingerprints or biometric ID that says the person was at the workplace at the right time."

Information technology can help better use human resources, especially in the coun-

tries with shortages of resources, Alain added.

He lauded Bangladesh government's political will to introduce IT-based solutions in the health sector and called for training university students in public health, informatics and IT.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sajeda Haque, wife of former tax commissioner Md Nurul Haque Mia, died on last Saturday in her residence in the capital's Banani, says a press release.

A doa mahfil will be organised for the salvation of her departed soul on next Friday at house no-30, road no-18, block-J in Banani.

Relatives and friends are requested to attend the programme.