



A large number of people attend the last Juma prayers during Ramadan at the capital's Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Madhabkunda waterfall temporarily shut to tourists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The local administration has restricted entry of tourists to Madhabkunda waterfall and eco-park in Baralekha upazila of Moulvibazar after a trail leading to the site caved in partially following heavy rains.

The Baralekha upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and tourism police yesterday issued an order regarding this to avoid accidents due to heavy rains and onrush of hilly water, causing cracks and landslides in different places in the area.

The decision was taken following a Daily Star report headlined "Large cracks appear in Madhabkunda" on June 21, said UNO SM Abdullah Al Mamun. This initiative was

Foreigner robbed in port city

Some items recovered, mugger arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested a mugger with items he had snatched from an American teacher at an international university in the city.

On Wednesday around 9:30pm, the arrestee, Nagor Pandit, 26, mugged Dana Hudson Mclachlin -- an instructor of English at the Asian University for Women -- while she was walking home after having dinner at a restaurant on Zakir Hossain Road.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) organised a press conference on CMP premises yesterday afternoon to announce the arrest.

During a drive conducted till early hours yesterday since Thursday afternoon, the CMP recovered Dana's laptop iPod and e-book reader from the possession of Nagor Pandit -- one of the muggers who took part in Wednesday night's mugging.

The CNG-run auto-rickshaw that was used during the crime was also seized.

However, police are yet to arrest his associate and recover rest of the belongings taken from the US citizen -- Tk 7,000 in cash, a US driving licence and two ATM cards.

A journalist identity card bearing the names of two newspapers -- the daily Sangbad Mohona and monthly Sangbad Diganta -- was also recovered having Nagor Pandit's name on it. He is son of Salam Pandit from Bhola and a resident of Bahir Signal area of Chandgaon in the city.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Dhaka more expensive than Washington for expats: Survey

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka is more expensive city than Washington in terms of cost of living for expatriates, according to Mercer's 2017 Cost of Living Survey.

The organisation found that Dhaka is now the 38th most expensive city worldwide for expatriates while Washington takes its position as 39th.

Dhaka is also more expensive city than some cities of developed countries and regional cities of Bangladesh -- Berlin of Germany, Toronto of Canada, Shenyang of China, Melbourne of Australia, Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai of India, Paris of France, Bangkok of Thailand, Islamabad and Karachi of Pakistan and Colombo of Sri Lanka, said the survey report.

African, Asian, and European cities dominate the list of most expensive locations for working abroad, it said.

The top 10 cities are Luanda, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Zurich, Singapore, Seoul, Geneva, Shanghai, New York and Bern.

Five of the top 10 cities in this year's ranking are in Asia. Hong Kong (2) is the most expensive city as a result of its currency pegged to the US dollar, which drove up the cost of accommodations locally. This global financial centre is followed by Tokyo (3), Singapore (5), Seoul (6), and Shanghai (8).

BEZA plans 1,000MW solar power zone

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) has planned to set up a solar power zone for generating at least 1,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity, official sources said.

"The authority has started the process of acquiring around 4,000 acres of land at Baher Char in Chandpur district to develop the solar zone, which will be the country's biggest hub for solar power," Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) Executive Chairman Paban Chowdhury told the news agency.

The zone could be named after Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, provided that the approval is given from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the BEZA chief said.

"Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and Power China have shown interest in developing the solar zone," he said, noting that BPDB would work on 1,000 acres of land, keeping the remaining 3,000 acres for Power China for setting up the solar zone.

He hoped that the development of the solar zone would begin soon so it could start generating electricity from late next year in phases.

"Unlike conventional power plant, setting up of solar power system does not take much time," Chowdhury said.

He said establishing of a solar power zone would also ensure the better use of sandy char land, which was not suitable for cropping.

A big portion of the electricity would be supplied to the national grid to help meet the growing demand, Chowdhury said.

Besides developing the mega solar power, BEZA would give the Power Division nearly 2,000 acres of land at Mirersharai Economic Zone in Chittagong to develop another solar hub for producing 600MW electricity.

The government has a target of generating 24,000MW of electricity in 2021 and 60,000MW in 2041 for meeting the increasing demand. At least 10 percent of the demand would be met from renewable sources including solar power.

The country is now producing 15,379MW of electricity to supply to 2.49 crore customers across the country. Nearly 45 lakh households in thousands of villages of the country also got solar power in the past few years.



A part of the trail to Madhabkunda waterfall caved in on Monday after heavy rains.

FILE PHOTO

taken considering the safety of tourists, he told the newspaper.

Around a 40-foot-long area on the road leading to the waterfall caved in by two feet on Monday night, following heavy rains for the last few days, the officer said, adding the area was now highly vulnerable to serious accidents.

The UNO, however, did not say how long the site would be kept shut to tourists and what steps were taken to repair the damaged parts.

Meanwhile, locals complained that the eco-park's roads and stairs suffered serious damage due to poor construction.

Two Gazipur RMG workers killed in separate incidents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two garment workers were found killed in two incidents in Gazipur on Thursday and yesterday.

Ziaur Rahman, 36, son of late Zobed Ali from Bakakura village in Sherpur, was found dead with his throat slit and there was an injury mark on his right chest near the forest check post in the city's Salna area yesterday.

Joydevpur Police Station Sub-inspector Al Amin said Ziaur, who had been living with his family at a rented house in Maleker Baria area of Gazipur city, worked at Shyaran Garments Ltd in Naojora area.

Meanwhile, the body of Abdul Kader Kakon, 22, son of Khoybar Ali from Khonarpar village in Kurigram, was found near Mirzabadi road in Kuniapachhar area around 11:00pm on Thursday.

The body of Kakon, who used to work at Moonlight Garments Ltd, bore stab wounds, said SI Nurul Islam of the police station.

He lived in the city's Kuniapachhar area, the SI added. Officer-in-Charge Aminul Islam said the two people might have been killed following previous enmity.

The bodies were sent to Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College morgue for autopsies, he added. No arrest was made till yesterday.

Govt to return 1,385 acres of city land to owners

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to return 1,385 acres of land in the capital to their owners, Land Minister Shamsur Rahman Sherif said yesterday.

The government will soon issue a gazette notification for returning the land, which it had acquired earlier, he told a press conference at his office.

The land is situated in Badda, Zoar Sahara, Ulun, Bhatarra, Bhola and Shuti Bhola, Mohakhali, Karail and Lala Sarail mouzas.

"The government acquired 2,760 acres of land in 1961 in these mouzas," the minister said, adding that the government would also take effective steps soon so the landowners could complete mutation and pay taxes of their land.



A bus dangerously passes another bus with people on top on a two-lane bridge on the Dhaka-Aricha highway. The passing vehicle can get into a head-on collision with oncoming traffic any time. The photo was taken yesterday near Goalbathan area under Kaliakoir of Gazipur.

PHOTO: STAR

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 36th death anniversary of Prof Abdul Matin Chaudhury, ex-vice chancellor of Dhaka University and founder chairman of Bangabandhu Parishad, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani will be held at DU mosque, at his Banani residence and village home.

Besides, food will be distributed among the destitute and wreaths will be placed at his grave. Chaudhury was posthumously awarded with the Independence Day Award in 1997 for his contributions to education.

Asiruddin Ahmed

CITY DESK

The 18th death anniversary of Asiruddin Ahmed, a retired co-operative inspector of Rangpur, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani, doa and iftar mahfils have been arranged after the Asr prayers at his residence at "AHMAD", House No-3, Road No-228, Mulatole, Rangpur (Tel: 0521-66509, 01716-366864).



হািরিয়েছে
আমরা (১) মোঃ শাহাবুদ্দিন আহমেদ (২) মোঃ তাইজুদ্দিন আহমেদ (৩) মোঃ তাহের উদ্দিন আহমেদ, সর্বপিতা মৃত শাহ আহমেদ আলী, মাতা মৃত রহিমা খাতুন, ৪৮/৯, দক্ষিণ বিন্দিল, নিরপূর-১, ঢাকা-১১১৬।

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Scientist among seven killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Seven people were killed and at least 11 others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday, according to our correspondents.

In Rajshahi, a scientist was killed as his private car hit a roadside tree after the driver lost his control over the vehicle near Kalitola bridge in Mohonpur upazila.

Dr Mansur Rahman, 63, principal scientific officer of Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Laboratory in Rajshahi, died from head injury on the spot at 6:00am, said Mohonpur police.

He was going to his village home in Naogaon for distributing Eid gifts among his family members and villagers from his Rajshahi city residence, said his colleagues and police.

Injured driver Shariat Hossain was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

In Savar, motorcyclist Shohan Mia, 30, of Rajbari, was killed and two others were

injured as a bus hit the motorbike from behind on Nabinagar-Chandra highway in Palli Bidyut area of Ashulia.

In Bogra, two unidentified people were killed and at least five others injured in a bus-truck head-on collision on Bogra-Dhaka highway in Sherpur upazila.

The injured were rushed to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital.

In Joypurhat, Saddam Hossain, 25, was killed and two others were injured as a pickup skidded off a road in Kalai upazila.

The injured -- Shakil Hossain, 22, and Sweet Hossain, 20 -- were treated at Kalai Upazila Health Complex.

In Mymensingh, Mahub Hossain, 22, died when a truck hit a battery-run auto-rickshaw on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road in Bhatiasavar area of Nandail upazila.

In Gopalganj, Nurul Islam, 28, was killed and his wife Nurjahan injured as a three-wheeler carrying them fell into a ditch beside Dhaka-Barisal highway after being hit by an unknown vehicle in Prosonodi area of Mukshudpur upazila.

BCL men clash with cops in Chandpur, 20 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Bangladesh Chhatra League activists clashed with police over stopping of a motorbike in Chandpur town yesterday afternoon, injuring around 20 people, including 14 policemen.

Vehicular movement remained suspended for around an hour.

Traffic policeman Delwar Hossain said they signalled to stop a motorbike ridden by former president of the district BCL and two others.

As they ignored the signal, police forced them to stop, creating an argument.

Later, BCL leaders and activists threw brickbats at police and vandalised their van. Police charged batons and fired rubber bullets. Local BCL leaders claimed their 10 activists were injured.

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