



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

20 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE : Tk 12.00

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXVIII No. 80 CHAITRA 20, 1424 BS | RAJAB 15, 1439 HIJRI



REMITTANCE UPBEAT

Inflow soars 20.7pc year-on-year to \$1.3 billion in March

PAGE B1

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

US being stolen, says Trump; blames Democrats for 'weak' border laws

PAGE 8

Traffic's trial with remotes

Dhaka South to try out yet another signal project to curb chaos at intersections

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

City authorities have tried out a host of "solutions" to control chaotic traffic over the decades. The result? All the money went down the drain and the situation turned from bad to worse.

After bamboo and rope fences, manual traffic lights turned digital at the capital's intersections in 2004 to ease traffic movement.

Nine years later, the system was upgraded with electronic countdown timers and solar panels. The two projects cost Tk 37 crore but in the end public money was more or less wasted. Dhaka South City Corporation and the World Bank, lender of previous projects, now look for a third option to make the system effective. After several years of deliberation, they think a "semi-automatic" approach, combining digital and manual options, would do the trick.

Under a fresh plan, traffic police would carry remote controls to switch green and red lights assessing traffic flow, said officials and experts involved in the initiative.

At least 134 remote controls would be imported from India within this month spending Tk 50 lakh.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Traffic chaos on Dhaka streets as vehicles and pedestrians ignore rules and go about as per their wish. Ropes, cones and even bamboo fences have been used to control traffic. At most intersections, the traffic lights are either broken or not used as policemen prefer signalling by hand. Yet, money is now being spent to buy remotes for the lights. The photos were taken in Bijoy Sarani, Gulshan and Mohakhali areas.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/PBABIR DAS/ANISUR RAHMAN



Woman suffers burns in 'acid' attack in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just past 7:30am yesterday in the capital's Hazaribagh, Aklima Akhter left her house to drop her five-year-old daughter off at a kindergarten. A few yards out, a man dressed in a black shirt and pants was sitting on a stack of bricks with a cup in hand.

There was nothing suspicious about him. Then suddenly he got up and threw the liquid in the cup at Aklima and left her with burns on her face, neck and chest.

She is now undergoing treatment at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Aklima suffered five percent burns. Her daughter was unharmed.

Talking to The Daily Star at the hospital, both Aklima and her husband,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Don't worry

Foreign secretary tells int'l community, says Bangladesh has a plan to avert disasters in Rohingya camps this monsoon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has chalked out a detailed plan to avert natural disasters in Cox's Bazar Rohingya camps in the upcoming monsoon, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said yesterday, requesting the international community not to worry.

"With the arrival of monsoon, natural disasters like flood, landslide and cyclone occur. Bangladesh government is aware of it. This is not something new to us. We have elaborated a plan on how to help those people. Extra land has already been allocated," he said.

The foreign secretary also said the international assistance for Rohingyas is on decline, which is another challenge for Bangladesh.

He came up with the comments while speaking as chief guest at an international conference titled "Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Towards Sustainable Solutions", organised by the Centre for Genocide Studies of Dhaka University, Brac University and ActionAid, held at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan of DU.

The UN says about 150,000 refugees in Bangladesh's southeast -- where nearly one million Rohingyas in total live in shanties on hillsides -- are extremely vulnerable to disease and disaster this rainy season.

Monsoon rains wreak havoc every year in Cox's Bazar and the adjacent Chittagong Hill Tracts, a tropical forest zone home to wild elephants.

Last season heavy rain triggered landslides in the tract region, killing 170 people. Experts blamed deforestation for worsening the impact of the mud avalanches, writes AFP.

"The Rohingya people are clearing forestland equal to four football fields every day for collecting fuel wood," said Refugee Relief and Repatriation

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

ROHINGYA ISSUE Dhaka seeks Moscow's support

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has sought active cooperation from Russia and others for resolving the ongoing Rohingya crisis.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali made the call at a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow yesterday, says a foreign ministry press release.

While describing Bangladesh's achievements, including its becoming eligible for graduating to a developing country from a least developed one, Ali narrated how the possibility of outstanding economic and social development tempo of Bangladesh may face challenge by the Rohingya influx.

The foreign minister told his Russian counterpart how Bangladesh was doing

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Eight BNP leaders face graft probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has opened an enquiry into eight BNP leaders over alleged involvement in money laundering and amassing of wealth illegally.

They are BNP standing committee members Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, Mirza Abbas, Nazrul Islam Khan and Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury; vice chairmen Abdul Awal Mintoo and Morshed Khan; Executive Committee Member Tabitha Awal, and Joint Secretary General Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel are being investigated, according to ACC Director (Enquiry and Investigation) Kazi Safikul Alam.

Morshed Khan's son Foysal Morshed and Dhaka Bank Managing Director Syed Mahbubur Rahman are also being investigated, he added.

The ACC yesterday appointed its Deputy Director Shamsul Alam as enquiry officer. "I'm scanning the allegations. It's too early to make any comment," he said.

Contacted, ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood said, "I have no idea about it. I'm not supposed to know about it."

"When complaints are made, it is scanned by a committee and put up before the commissioner [enquiry]. If he approves and it turns into a case, then it comes to me."

The Daily Star contacted ACC Commissioner Nasiruddin Ahmed but he declined to make any comment.

After the conviction of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in February in the Zia Orphanage graft case, this is the first move the ACC made against any top BNP leader.

Contacted, Nazrul Islam Khan said the ACC is carrying out political agenda of the government to weaken the BNP

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

KHALEDA'S TREATMENT DMCH to send health report to jail today

Fakhrul hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Medical College Hospital will send BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's health check-up report to the jail authorities today.

Brig Gen AKM Nasir Uddin, director of the hospital, said they received the report from a medical board yesterday and would forward it to the jail authorities.

DMCH Deputy Director Dr Mohammad Shah Alam Talukder said the prison authorities would decide the next course of action for Khaleda's treatment after receiving the report.

He was briefing journalists at the hospital's conference room yesterday, a day

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



HSC exams see smooth beginning

Tough measures to prevent question leak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first HSC examination of this year was held without any allegation of question leak.

The exam of Bangla first paper began at 10:00am yesterday in 2,541 test centres across the country amid fears of question leak.

Although some Facebook groups for the last couple of days were alluring people with leaked questions to collect money, no incident of question leak was reported yesterday.

The government this time took several measures to prevent the menace following widespread allegations of leaks in the SSC examinations.

As many as 1,092,607 examinees have registered to sit for the HSC exams under eight general education boards, 1,00,127 under the madrasa board and 117,754 under the technical education board

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hugs an autistic girl during the inaugural function of the 11th World Autism Awareness Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: BSS

BSC set to get new vessels after 27 years

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation is in the process of purchasing new bulk carriers for its fleet after about 27 years.

The first of the six Chinese vessels would be delivered by the supplier on July 5.

The vessels, three of which are oil tankers and the rest freighters, are being bought from China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation.

Each of the vessels is of 39,000 deadweight tonnage (DWT).

The total cost of the project is Tk 1,843.58 crore. China will provide financial assistance for the purchase under a government-to-government concessional loan.

The vessel to be received in July is called Banglar Joyjatra, BSC Managing Director Commodore Yahya Syed told The Daily Star.

The rest--Banglar Samridhi, Banglar Arjan, Banglar Agrajatra, Banglar Agradoot and Banglar Agragoti--would be delivered on August 25, December 18, November 2, December 18 this year and February 14 next year.

Of the total cost, China would provide Tk 1,448.32 crore. The BSC would bear the remaining expenses including those of appointing a supervising team in China, bank charges, taxes and VAT.

MV Banglar Shikha, purchased in 1991, was the last

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

