



Amid a huge rush, passengers have to struggle to board an overcrowded train. In such a situation they travel on the roof, no matter how inclement the weather is. They undergo all this hassle just to get home to celebrate Eid with loved ones. The photos were taken at Chattogram Railway Station yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Ctg Wasa mulls big hike in water tariff

Says it needs to do so for 'survival'

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

Just five months into its last tariff hike, Chattogram Water and Sanitation Authority (CWasa) are mulling to increase water tariff yet again by more than 60 per cent, in an apparent bid to bridge the gap between production cost and existing price.

The utility service authority wants to raise the tariff for residential connections from Tk 9.92 to Tk 16, while non residential tariff would increase to be Tk 45 from Tk 27.56 per unit of 1,000 litres.

A proposal to this end is set to be placed at a CWasa board meeting today.

Water tariff was last raised by five percent in March, before which the tariff for residential connections was Tk 9.45, while non-residential connections paid Tk 26.25 per unit.

When asked the reason behind the hike, Engr AKM Fajlullah, managing director of CWasa told The Daily Star that it was for the sake of the organisation's survival.

He said they needed to coordinate the production cost -- which is now Tk 16 per unit -- with the price.

"The government doesn't give us any subsidy, and has asked us to be self-dependent. We have a huge amount of unpaid loans from various international lenders. Considering the situation, we have no option but to increase the tariff," he added.

"The money we are spending must be recouped by raising water tariff. CWasa won't survive unless we do it," he added.

During a visit to CWasa on June 28, Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Md Tajul Islam had said the organisation was running at a loss and was dependent on borrowing. He also urged CWasa to generate income.

MA Nazer Hossain, president of Chattogram chapter of Consumers' Association of Bangladesh, SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## ANTI-MOSQUITO DRIVES DNCC fines four hospitals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) yesterday fined four hospitals in the capital's Uttara area after Aedes larvae and breeding grounds were found on the premises of the institutions.

A mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Sajid Anwar conducted a drive in Uttara and fined Popular Hospital Tk 2 lakh, Women's Medical College and Hospital in Jasimuddin road Tk 2.50 lakh, Lubna Hospital in Garib Newaz Avenue Tk 30 thousand, and Japan Kaguchi Hospital in sector-4 Tk 25 thousand, according to a DNCC press release.

Besides, two mobile courts of DNCC conducted drives in Baridhara and Karwan Bazar areas yesterday.

In Baridhara, the mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Hemayet Hossain fined the owners of 11 buildings a total of Tk 1 lakh as Aedes mosquito larvae and breeding grounds were found there, SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Bangamata remembered on 89th birth anniversary

BSS Dhaka

The 89th birth anniversary of Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib was observed with due respect in the capital and elsewhere in the country yesterday.

Begum Fazilatunnesa, wife of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and mother of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, embraced martyrdom along with Bangabandhu and other family members in a brutal attack by some army personnel on August 15 in 1975.

Fazilatunnesa, who struggled for an independent Bangladesh alongside Bangabandhu, was born in Tungipara village of Gopalganj on August 8, 1930.

Marking the occasion, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs organised a discussion at Bangabandhu International



Conference Center. Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Choudhury addressed the discussion as the chief guest. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatunnesa Indra chaired the discussion while chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroze Chumki and Jatiya Mahila Sangstha Chairman Prof Moutaj Begum took part in the discussion.

A documentary on Bangamata was screened after the discussion.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages marking the day. Besides, Awami League, its associate bodies and other like-minded organisations paid tributes to Bangamata by placing wreaths on her grave at Banani graveyard in Dhaka.

## Adopt year-round plan to control mosquito

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With dengue situation getting worse every day, speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to ensure that people in rural areas are well informed about nearby facilities where they can seek treatment during Eid holidays.

They said an integrated national plan has to be adopted to deal with such outbreaks and it should be implemented round the year.

Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) organised the discussion at its headquarters in Dhaka.

After the dengue outbreak spread to almost every district in the country, health experts now fear the viral fever will spread further and faster during Eid vacation, when tens of thousands of people are expected to head home.

Many of these holidaymakers

might be infected with the mosquito-borne virus, and they may end up spreading it quickly if adequate measures are not taken, doctors and experts said.

"There's a lack of facilities in rural areas. It's important to make sure people will be able to get treatment," said

health expert Dr Lenin Chowdhury at yesterday's discussion.

Dr Bilkis Begum Chowdhury said expectant mothers should be given special attention.

Speakers also blamed unplanned urbanisation, waste mismanagement, climate change and negligence of the authorities concerned behind this year's dengue outbreak.

They also criticised the authorities for their "insensitive" SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## MOSQUITO ERADICATION CCC launches crash programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) yesterday initiated a crash programme to eradicate mosquitoes from the port city.

The programme was inaugurated by Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin on Aparna Charan City Corporation High School premises in the morning. The mayor said such drives will continue throughout the year.

Apart from government initiative, people have to be aware as well, he said, adding that city dwellers must ensure there is no stagnant water at home, especially during the Eid holidays when many will leave the city.

"The campaign will be held in all the wards, he said. He advised people not to panic if infected with dengue. "Consume more fluid and take sufficient rest... awareness can help us fight the fever," he observed.

CCC as part of the crash programme will spray mosquito insecticide, inspect every household to make sure there is no stagnant water and distribute leaflets to generate awareness.



Homebound people throng Sadarghat Launch Terminal in Dhaka ahead of Eid-ul-Azha to be celebrated on August 12. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



The 17th graduation ceremony of Sunnydale School was held on August 3 at International Convention City Bashundhara. Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad, chairman, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, as chief guest, handed over certificates among 102 graduates. Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam, writer and professor, Department of English and Humanities at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, was present as special guest. Sunnydale Chairman Tanvir Ahmed Khan and Principal Tazeen Ahmed were also present at the ceremony.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Two Japanese nationals held with 30 gold bars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Japanese citizens were held with 30 gold bars, weighing around 12 kilogrammes, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport early yesterday.

The detainees -- Takeo Mimura and Shuichi Sato -- came to Bangladesh from Malaysia on flight no AK 71 of Air Asia, Director General of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) Md Shahidul Islam told The Daily Star.

He said customs officials, on a tip-off, intercepted the duo when they were passing through the green channel around 12:30am. When asked, they denied of carrying any gold bar.

The officials, after searching the two, found the gold bars in pockets sewn inside their trousers, said Shahidul. The market price of the seized gold is around Tk 6 crore, the official added.

After filing a case, the Japanese nationals were handed over to airport police, he said.

## ACC files cases against 12 including ex-BIFC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed two separate cases against 12 persons including Major (ret'd) MA Mannan, former chairman of Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company Limited (BIFC), for allegedly misappropriating around Tk 43.4 crore from the non-banking financial institution.

The other accused are: D' Afroz Sweater Industries Limited's managing director Golam Zilani Didar; Click to Design's managing director Nazmul Bashar; BIFC's managing director Mahmud Malik, former managing director Inamur Rahman, former senior vice president Syed Fakre Foysal, former assistant vice president Ahmed Karim Chowdhury, former senior officer Mohammad Nizam Uddin, former officer Saikat Azad, former principal officer Taniza Mazed, former officer Masud-ul-

Reza Chowdhury and former senior officer Afrida Ahsan.

ACC's Deputy Director SM Sahidur Rahman filed the cases with its integrated district office in Dhaka.

According to a case statement, BIFC issued a loan sanction letter to D' Afroz Sweater Industries in 2008. The letter enabled D' Afroz Sweater Industries to secure a Tk 45 lakh loan for 12 months.

Later, the then managing authority, misusing its power and through forgery, gave Tk 61.39 crore to D' Afroz Sweater Industries which has so far paid back Tk 39.47 crore.

BIFC issued another loan of about Tk 6.47 crore in 2008 to D' Afroz Sweater Industries, which has not been repaid.

ACC found that most of the money went to organisations SEE PAGE 4 COL 1