



HUSTLE OF THE HOMEBOUND ... Whether its sitting on the roof, hanging by the door with one hand and a child in the other, climbing up the side of the train wearing a burqa, pushing and shoving to enter the vehicle or wrapping oneself up with a plastic sheet to protect from the rain -- the longing for home trumps all hassles and sufferings. Thousands braved the weather and mad rush to set out yesterday to celebrate Eid with near and dear ones. The photos were taken at Chattogram Railway Station yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

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) is mulling to increase water tariff yet again by more than 60 percent, 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 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 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 on Jasimuddin road Tk 2.50 lakh, Lubna Hospital on Garib Newaz Avenue Tk 30,000, and Japan Kaguchi Hospital in sector-4 Tk 25,000, 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 Indira 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 Momtaj 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 that people 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

MIGRANTS' DEBT COERCION Bangladesh, US discuss concerns

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and the United States have discussed concerns with traffickers exploiting legal recruitment fees to trap migrant workers in debt-based coercion. US Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons John Cotton Richmond had the discussion with Bangladesh government officials and partners between August 3-6, said the US Embassy yesterday. US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller joined Ambassador Richmond for meetings in Dhaka with government officials from the foreign affairs, law, home, social welfare and expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministries. Officials of the two countries also discussed the need to identify internal forced labour and sex trafficking, increase accountability for traffickers, and provide victims support services. Ambassadors Miller and Richmond applauded the passage of the 2018-2022 National Action Plan and emphasised the importance of prosecution, protection and prevention in combating human trafficking.



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 Sunnysdale 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. Sunnysdale 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-AK71 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 carrying any gold. 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 two were handed over to airport police, Shahidul 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 Maj (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 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 2