

Man involved in ATM fraud in 3 cities held

He stole from Pubali Bank's ATM booths in Ctg, Cumilla and N'ganj in 2019

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Police claimed to have arrested two ATM fraudsters from port city's Agrabad commercial area on Tuesday night. According to law enforcers, they stole Tk 9.60 lakh from two ATM booths of Pubali Bank in Chattogram around eight months ago. Besides, they also withdrew Tk 3.30 lakh from a Pubali Bank booth in Cumilla and Tk 10,000 from a booth of the same bank in Narayanganj in November last year, said police. On June 22, they again tried to take money from ATM booths in Chattogram but failed. From CCTV camera footage, police confirmed it and gathered information, which eventually led to his arrest. The arrestees are Md Shariful Islam (34) and his associate Md Mohiuddin Monir (30). Law enforcers of Double Mooring Police Station made the arrest, said Deputy Commissioner (west) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police Faruk Ul Haque while address a press briefing at the station. Shariful, the mastermind, completed his higher studies abroad and got involved with crime after coming back to the country in 2010, said police. He apparently learned how to skim cards from a UK national while there. The police official said later the UK national came to Bangladesh, and the two started skimming cards together in port city. They were arrested by Panchlaish Police Station in 2013. The official, however, could not confirm the whereabouts of the foreign national. Shariful has also been arrested several times on charges of embezzling money, cloning credit and debit card, said police. "He then adopted a new technique and hacked into the bank's server and took away TK 9.60 lakh from two ATM booths," said the police official.

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Just one slip of a toe, and a cup of tea might end up costing a broken limb or two. The city corporation is carrying out development work at Mirpur's Mazar Road, so small tea stalls are having to improvise with wooden planks as bridges to keep their business running despite the gaping hole on the side of the road.

No more waste on roads, open spaces

Says DSCC mayor Taposh

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said no more garbage and waste would be allowed on roads and open places. Garbage collectors will collect waste from house to house from six o'clock in the evening in every ward. All waste will be transferred to an Intermediate Waste Transfer Center (STS) by 10 pm. From there, the waste will be taken to Matuail waste disposal site, said Taposh, while laying foundation stone of Islamabad STS under ward-29. Taposh said, "We have already rearranged our waste management activities. From now on, we will build waste transfer centres in the wards which do not have one." Meanwhile, Mayor Taposh said that cleaners will sweep the streets from 9pm and Dhaka city will be clean and tidy within 6am the next day. Later, Taposh inspected the STS to be constructed at Malibagh (ward-12) and inspected the road adjacent to Nagar Hhaban, Bangabazar, Anandabazar and Fulbaria bus stopover and identified some existing problems.

Ride bikes for a better Dhaka

DNCC mayor Atiq urges

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Md Atiqul Islam yesterday called upon everyone to use bicycles to present a beautiful Dhaka city to the future generation. He made the call while inaugurating the bicycle service Jobike at Gulshan in the capital. The mayor said, "All over the world, rich and poor, men and women use bicycles. It has been launched experimentally here. Then, there is a plan to expand it to Uttara and the entire DNCC in phases." "We are working to ensure space for passers-by and bicycle lanes," he said, urging city dwellers to use bicycles to maintain social distance. Atiqul Islam said, "Let's use bicycles to save the environment and reduce carbon emissions. We should use bicycles to present a beautiful city to future generations. It will even save money. If we want to save Dhaka city, we have to increase the use of environment-friendly modes of transportation. Cycling will also save time." Jobike will be available in Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara and Niketan. Hundreds of bicycles have already been parked at 22 points in these areas.

MIGRANT WORKERS' CRISES DURING PANDEMIC Experts stress regional cooperation, govt action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Migration experts from across South Asian countries yesterday stressed for regional cooperation and action from governments to address problems of migrant workers in distress during the coronavirus pandemic. Workers of South Asian countries were losing wages and jobs, they said during an e-symposium, organised by Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) on "Migrant Workers of South Asia: Experiences of Return, Repatriation and Deportation". Prof CR Abrar, executive director of RMMRU, referred to Bangladesh foreign minister's remarks, and said following the coronavirus outbreak, some labour-receiving countries have asked Bangladesh to take back its migrant workers. The countries have threatened to not hire workers from Bangladesh in future if it

were to refuse to take back migrant workers, he said. "It's unfortunate and a breach of diplomatic protocols." Jagannath Adhikari, senior visiting fellow at Australian National University, Canberra, said whenever any crisis emerges -- whether it is related to economic or health, migrant workers have to suffer most. This has been evident during the coronavirus pandemic, he said. Prof S Irudaya Rajan, chair of Centre for Development Studies in Kerala, India said at least 15 lakh migrant workers of Indian nationality are estimated to return home due to the pandemic. Ganesh Gurung, chair of Nepal Institute of Development Studies in Kathmandu, said some 17,792 Nepalese migrant workers were infected with coronavirus in 35 countries, of whom 127 have died.

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BIP demands workplace security for all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) yesterday demanded workplace security for all professionals. It also sought exemplary punishment for killers of Dr Abdur Rakib Khan in Khulna and Gazipur City Corporation's executive engineer Delwar Hossain. BIP issued a statement to press home their demands. They said the killing of an on-duty engineer and a doctor has highlighted how professionals are working without security. "If professionals do not feel safe at workplace, the overall development of the country will be hampered," the statement said.



This illegal structure built at port city's Baizid area was demolished during a drive yesterday. Many such structures were constructed amid the pandemic after a group razed the hills, prompting the authorities to take action.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Barishal kitchen markets abuzz, defying order

Traders shift back to cramped bazars; cite monsoon, waterlogging as reasons

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Defying official order, all kitchen markets in Barishal city are bustling with people as vendors have opened shop again, a month after they were shifted to open spaces due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to April 21 circular, issued by the district administration, 11 major kitchen markets, out of total 13, have to sit on certain playgrounds of the educational institutions from 9am to 2pm so that physical distance can be maintained. The coronavirus prevention committee of the administration took the decision in consultation with Barishal City Corporation officials, ward councillors and different kitchen market committee leaders. However, the directives, which were followed initially, have been ignored for the last one month, said residents. While visiting, Chowmatha Bazar was found on its previous spot instead of the designated Government Hatem Ali College premises. Not only that, area of the kitchen market was extended up to the nearby four-lane regional highway, disrupting traffic. Anowar Mridha, a grocer at the bazar, said the administration only issued the order. "We need necessary infrastructure -- such as sheds -- for our shops," he said. Besides, the college playground gets waterlogged after a brief rain, said Selim Mondol, another trader. Similarly, Mubarak Sheikh, a vegetable seller at Kawnia Bazar, said it is risky to run business under open sky during monsoon. The city's Pura Bazar shops were relocated to Khaja Moinuddin Madrasa playground, Port Road Bazar to A Karim College and Kawnia

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CANCELLATION OF HAJJ TRAVELS Registration to be valid for next year

Says religious affairs ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On Tuesday, Saudi Hajj Minister Mohammad Benteen said the Kingdom will only allow around 1,000 pilgrims residing inside the Kingdom to perform hajj this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, reported the country's media outlets. Following the announcement, the religious affairs ministry has decided on a guideline for Bangladeshis who registered or pre-registered to perform Hajj under government or private Hajj management this year. The decision was taken at an emergency virtual meeting yesterday, with religious affairs ministry secretary Nurul Islam in the chair. Following a unanimous decision, the ministry has announced that pre-registrations and registrations for Hajj made this year, will be effective as pre-registration and registration of 2021 as well. "If the cost of the Hajj package increases or decreases in 2021, it will be adjusted," Nurul Islam said. Those who want to withdraw their registration money must apply to the ministry online from July 13. The money will be refunded without deducting any service charge, the announcement states.

350 structures torn down from Ctg hills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A joint drive conducted by seven authority bodies yesterday knocked down 350 illegal structures in Chattogram. The drive, led by Chattogram district administration, was launched amid increasing number of illegal occupants along the link road connecting port city's Baizid area to Dhaka-Chattogram highway. Department of Environment (DoE), police, fire service, Chattogram Wasa, Power Development Board and Chattogram City Corporation took part in the drive, that began at three spots simultaneously: Asian Women University's proposed campus, Sitakunda upazila and Link Road. DoE Director (Chattogram) Moazzom Hossain told The Daily Star that they had noticed increasing number of illegal occupants along the road. Taking advantage of the pandemic, a group razed many hills at Arefin Nagar, Jangol Salimpur and Jangal Latifpur areas recently, prompting joint action to free the hills from encroachments, he said. DoE Deputy Director (Metro) Mia Mahmudul Haque told this newspaper that the drive began at 10am, and several hundred labourers demolished the structures, which were built after razing hills.

Online classes in focus as UGC sits with univs today

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The University Grants Commission is likely to urge public universities to ensure online education to minimise possible session jams, despite students' and teachers' consensus shifting momentum against it. The regulatory body of higher education is set to sit in a virtual meeting with vice chancellors of all public universities today. "We'll request them to start online education. We are trying to take steps so students do not incur major academic losses due to the Covid-19 situation," UGC member Prof Dil Afroza Begum said. "We will hear from them about their problems. Public universities should be worried about session jams," she added. In light of the Covid-19 outbreak, universities were closed down in March 17, that has since been extended till August 6. Most public universities are yet to offer students online education, said a UGC member. Officials gave reasons including lack of facilities at institutions and uneven internet access for all students as reasons. A majority of 19,000 students and 7,000 teachers of public and private universities in an online survey in May said they do not support online education methods. A UGC member said during the survey,

they found that over 71 percent students are against online education, while 63 percent teachers have similar attitude, he said. Asked about it, Dil Afroza Begum said, "Can we snatch one year of time from students' academic lives? Is it moral? In this competitive time, students of private universities will go ahead, as they have online education". Regarding many students not having access to internet and devices, Dil Afroza said, "Teachers can have their lecture at university website, so students can access those later in cases of load shedding or connectivity issues". UGC member Prof Muhammed Alamgir said session jam is an inevitable problem. Regarding students' and teachers' disinterest towards online classes, he said steps should be taken so they feel their problems and concerns will be addressed. "It is reality that our universities are not ready to introduce online classes fully," he said. Many universities started online education but students and teachers lost interest within a week or two. Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology started online classes on June 6, but attendance reduced significantly within a week, said Alamgir.



Journalist Sajida Islam Parul -- who was allegedly tortured for dowry by her husband, also a journalist -- stood in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday with a placard, seeking the PM's intervention in giving her justice.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Sylhet residents seek premier's attention to battle Covid-19

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet residents have sought attention of prime minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday for necessary steps to combat the pandemic in the district, as the situation is worsening. A memorandum addressing the PM was submitted to Sylhet's deputy commissioner yesterday. Signed by 28 persons on behalf of various organisation, it said most parts of the city and many parts of the district are considered "red zones", but the administration has not taken adequate steps. They also said swab testing at MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital takes too much time, and health facilities at hospitals are inadequate. As of yesterday, 1,944 people in Sylhet district have tested Covid-19 positive.