

CCC gets new administrator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Khorshed Alam Sujon has been appointed administrator of the Chattogram City Corporation. Local Government and Rural Development Minister Tajul Islam confirmed it yesterday. A notification will be issued in this regard, the added. The tenure of incumbent CCC mayor AJM Nasir Uddin will expire today. Sujon, vice-president of city unit of Awami League, will fulfill his duties until a new mayor is elected. On March 21, the Election Commission postponed CCC polls due to the coronavirus outbreak. The election was scheduled for March 29. Sujon told reporters that he was grateful that the government appointed him the administrator of CCC.



Sujon



Conservancy workers of Dhaka South City Corporation clean up waste from animal sacrifice on Eid afternoon. The photo was taken from Green Road.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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Capital cleaned up promptly after Eid

26,000 tonnes of waste removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After Eid-ul-Azha, Dhaka city could be cleaned within three days through the efforts of the city corporations and city dwellers. Residents were encouraged to maintain proper disposal and clean their surroundings with bleach. Meanwhile, they also expressed satisfaction over the city corporations' prompt steps. Earlier, two mayors of Dhaka city had announced that they would ensure that each day's garbage is cleaned within 24 hours. Around 27,500 waste management workers of two city corporations cleaned up around 26,188 tonnes of waste during the three days of Eid generated due to animal sacrifice during the festival, alongside regular waste. Among those, 14,921 tones were generated at DSCC areas while 11,267 tones were generated in areas under DNCC. The waste was dumped at two designated landfills of the capital -- in Matuail and Amin Bazar. "The city corporations' effort was really good. I noticed the DSCC workers since the night before Eid when they were cleaning the cattle market in Dhupkhola," said Adnan Ahmed, a resident of Distillery road of Gandaria. "All the cattle markets are now clean, the work has been effective," said Adnan. Murad Hossain, a resident of Pallabi said city

Court rejects bail of JKG officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A virtual court in Dhaka yesterday again rejected the bail petition of two officials of JKG Health Care, in a case filed over issuing fake Covid-19 certificates. The accused are Humayun Kabir Himu, a graphic designer of JKG Health Care, and his wife Tanzina Patwary, who also worked for the organisation. Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order, after the accused's lawyer submitted a criminal appeal against rejection order of the lower court. Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on June 24 rejected the couple's bail and sent them to jail after they were produced before it for recording confessional statements in the case. During yesterday's hearing, their lawyer told the court that their clients were implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass them. Therefore, their bail petition should be granted. However, prosecution opposed the defence pleas, saying the couple gave confessional statements before magistrates,

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Road crashes kill 11 amid Eid rush

STAR REPORT

The country witnessed at least seven road accidents during Eid vacation, leaving 11 people dead and four persons injured, according to reports from our correspondents. In Madaripur, a motorbike rider was killed and his pillion passenger injured as the bike fell onto Dhaka-Khulna highway after he lost control over it in Pacha area under Shibchar upazila yesterday. The deceased -- Md Sadvi (25) from Etna village in Narail -- used to live in a rented house in Munshiganj, said police. The injured was admitted to Shibchar Upazila Health Complex. In Gaibandha, a car and a covered-van collided head-on on Dhaka-Rangpur highway in Gobindaganj area, leaving three persons dead and three injured in Nundah Bridge area on July 31. The deceased -- identified as Shahed (40), his brother Kazol (32) and Shahidul Islam (55) -- were garment workers and were travelling in the covered-van, said Abdul Kader Zilani, officer-in-charge of Gobindaganj Highway Police Station. The three -- who were going to their Rangpur residences -- died on the spot when the covered-van flipped over, said the OC. The injured -- who were in the car -- received primary treatment from Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex. Police seized both the vehicles. In Bogura, an NGO worker named Shapla Khatun (32) died instantly as she was run over by truck after she fell from a motorcycle in Ron Bagha area on Bogura-Natore regional highway in Nandigram upazila on July 31. Shapla along with her husband and daughter was going to Kahaloo

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Insurance scheme launched to cover losses due to flood

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The World Food Programme (WFP), Oxfam Bangladesh and Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd have launched a new insurance scheme to help protect casual agricultural labourers in the country from the floods during this monsoon. The scheme will support 2,000 casual farm labourers in Jatrapur and Ranigonj unions and Chilmary upazila of Kurigram, said a WFP statement yesterday. Based on the parameters of the flood index, each household will receive a pay-out of BDT 2,700 to 18,000 to cover wage losses caused by severe flooding during monsoon -- which runs from the beginning of July to end of September this year. "People in Bangladesh do not have protection against losses and damages caused by annual flooding. That's why WFP is introducing this flood insurance scheme -- the first of its kind," said Richard Ragan, WFP Country Representative in Bangladesh. Already dealing with the severity of the Covid-19 pandemic, Bangladesh is currently facing a devastating flood that has submerged towns, washed away homes, and destroyed crops. Experts say climate change and frequent rainfall have lead to the increase in flooding. Developed with funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the overall goal of the scheme -- which is a risk transfer solution -- is to enhance households' and communities' abilities to absorb climate shocks, improve their ability to reduce and manage risk, and maintain food security. "KOICA believes that the innovative approaches -- such as Index-based Flood Insurance, Forecast-based Financing and Seasonal Livelihood

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Boost monitoring to minimise farmers' losses: agri minister

UNB, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque yesterday asked officials concerned to visit flood-hit areas as soon as possible, and monitor and supervise field activities to recoup farmers' losses. "Affected farmers are facing uncertainty, and effective work is needed to minimise losses after water recedes," he told an online meeting with ministry staff. The government has formed 14 committees to accelerate monitoring and cooperation, including disbursement of fertiliser and seeds. The committees have started monitoring the government's incentive package to keep up food production and minimise losses of farmers in 38 districts. Committee members will hold regular online meetings and coordinate incentive distribution programmes in affected districts. Md Hasanuzzaman, additional secretary (admin) Arifur Raman Apu, additional secretary (research) Kamalaranjan Das, and officials concerned of the ministry were present at the meeting.

Fighting the good fight

Kumudini Hospital continues to provide healthcare services amid flood, Covid-19 challenges



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Staff members ride a boat to the hospital as the entire Kumudini Complex and nearby roads have remained inundated for two weeks, escalating sufferings of patients visiting the hospital on the premises, below.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Despite the ongoing pandemic situation, Kumudini Hospital in Tangail's Mirzapur has been continuing its health care services through various initiatives to help people in need. The authorities of the charitable institution, founded by late philanthropist Ranada Prasad Saha, also launched free telemedicine services for patients in this regard. But amid the coronavirus situation, the country was also hit by flood. Around 37 percent of the country's total area has been flooded, said Prof AKM Saiful Islam, of Buet's Institute of Water and Flood Management, last month after analysing satellite

images. In Tangail, fresh areas have been flooded after a 30-metre portion of a flood protection dam collapsed at Naogaon in Sadar upazila on July 29. Although water has started receding from some areas, the flood situation remains unchanged. The premises of Kumudini Hospital have gone under knee-deep water, causing hardships to patients. The entire Kumudini Complex as well as nearby roads has remained inundated for the last two weeks as water level increased in the adjacent Lohajang river. The flood situation has been exacerbated further by unplanned constructions in the areas surrounding the complex, resulting in poor drainage, said hospital authorities. Despite obstacles, the hospital carries on serving people in need. But patients and hospital staff continue to face hardships due to the prevailing situation as they are forced to travel on boats to enter and exit the hospital premises, they said. The hospital authorities have already moved many of its equipment from the ground floor to protect those from flood water, said Animesh Bhowmik Liton, assistant general manager of the hospital. "However, the health care services including emergency, operation

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ACC files case against Papia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against Jubo Mohila League's suspended leader Shamima Nur Papia and her husband Mofizur Rahman Sumon for amassing Tk 6.24 crore illegally. ACC's Deputy Director Shahin Ara Momtaz filed the case against them, confirmed ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya. According to the case statement, Papia paid over Tk 3.23 crore in cash for service between October 12, 2019 and February 22, 2020 to Westin hotel. During this period, she paid the money for 25 rooms including presidential and chairman suites, restaurant, spa, laundry and bar service. She also spent Tk 40 lakh for shopping. Between April 2015 and April 2020, Papia paid Tk 30 lakh for house rent and invested another Tk 1.2 crore in business. Besides, another Tk 30.52 lakh was found on Papia and her husband's account. During the raid, Rab recovered another Tk 58.41 lakh from her house. Papia's husband Mofiz owns a sedan worth about Tk 22 lakh. "They could not show any legal source of income against the wealth and expenditure," reads the statement.

No rush to return to Dhaka

River ports in Barishal experience manageable crowd flow, first time in years

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Holidaymakers from the southern region have started returning to their workplaces in Dhaka after spending Eid-ul-Adha with their families. Every year after Eid, river ports in Barishal overflow with passengers during the holidays. However, this year, the ports are much less crowded, mostly due to the caution surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, passenger suffering is at a minimum, launch owners said. On Monday, two days after the Eid, at least seven launches left Barishal for Dhaka. Although launches were a bit crowded, they did not overflow, this correspondent saw while visiting the ports. Passengers said they found a lot of available space at the launch decks in the afternoon, something they could not imagine before. Md Alauddin, a Dhaka-bound passenger, said journeying on a spacious launch was a refreshing change. Alongside decks, cabin tickets



Passengers enjoy a comfortable journey back to Dhaka owing to the decreased number of travellers on the route.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

could be managed without much hassle as well. Abul Bashar, who had come to Barishal from Dhaka, said for the return journey, he managed to book a single cabin on the Sundarban-11 launch without

any problem. According to Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) sources, every year during Eid, at least 16-17 passenger launches transport around 60,000-70,000

people daily with double trips. This time around, the seven launches transported only around 20,000 passengers for Monday. Saidur Rahman Rintu, vice-president of Launch Owners' Association, said launches are not getting expected number of passengers, and incurring losses as a result. On the other hand, Riazul Kabir, owner of the Surovi Passengers' Launch, said he expects the crowd to increase in the next three-four days. "This time, the number of passengers is relatively low. Maritime security has not been hampered anywhere. In addition, the launches have also maintained social distancing guidelines," said Azmol Huda Mithu, joint director (port and transportation) at BIWTA. However, upon inspection, this correspondent found that the launches were not fully complying with health guidelines necessary during the pandemic. They rarely facilitated social distancing and only one or two launches were checking passengers for temperature before boarding.

Assaulting people in Uttara TikTok personality 'Opu Vai' arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested TikTok celebrity Yasin Arafat Opu, also known as 'Opu Vai' on social media, along with one of his accomplices, on charges of assaulting, harassing and beating people at the capital's Uttara area. Opu (20) and Nazmul (21) were arrested from Uttara around 10:30pm on Monday, said Azizur Talukder, a sub-inspector of Uttara East police station, also the investigating officer of the case. Police produced them before a Dhaka court yesterday with a three-day remand prayer. But the court sent the duo to jail. TikTok and Likee (formerly Like) are two China and Singapore based video-sharing social networking services respectively, used for creating short videos. Hailing from Sonaimuri of Noakhali, Opu, followed by millions in these two platforms, stands out with his bright hairstyle, signature dialogues and smile on his TikTok and Likee videos. He recently came to Dhaka to make videos and was staying at a house in Dakkhin Khan area. The police officer said that Opu and his accomplices assaulted some locals in Uttara on Sunday evening and a victim later filed a case.

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