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## BLUE NETWORK DNCC scheme offers hope for canals in north

HELEMUL ALAM  
Dhaka North City Corporation has taken an initiative to create an integrated "blue network", connecting and reviving all the canals in 18 newly added wards to resolve the city's perennial waterlogging.

A project to build the network has already got Ecnc approval and a study has also been carried out in this regard.

The study, conducted by Troyee Associates led by planner Akhtar Mahmud and funded by DNCC, identified 48 existing canals in the 18 wards.

DNCC Mayor Md Atiqul Islam said they have planned the "blue network" to protect these canals and would carry out excavation, plant trees and construct walkways and bicycle lanes on the banks.

"We will create a connectivity to build a water network," he told this newspaper recently.

He further said they would gradually restore all the canals in DNCC areas and have already started removing encroachers from the waterbodies. "This is a challenging job but it will be done and encroachers will be evicted," he added.

"We have already formed an expert committee to make people aware."

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnc) has approved a Tk 4,025 crore project, including road construction and the "blue network", and it will be implemented through the army, he noted.

Architect Fazle Reza Sumon, one of the consultants of

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This photo taken a few years ago shows Shazadpur Canal at Badda in the capital completely clogged by garbage and vegetation. Such canals under the DNCC could be revived soon.

PHOTO: FILE

## RAPE, MURDER OF TEEN IGP, DMP AC contradict on age of accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed yesterday said what happened in Kalabagan was out-and-out a crime.

However, the IGP said, "Rape took place there, death was caused ... but both are children as per our law."

In the case filed by the father of the 17-year-old O-level student who was raped before her death on Thursday at a building in Dhaka's Kalabagan area, the lone accused Fardin Iftekhar Dihan's age is mentioned 18.

Abul Hasan, assistant commissioner of Newmarket Zone of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, even said Dihan was adult, not a child, and if needed they would conduct tests to ascertain his age.

The IGP said children cannot be kept in jail, taken into police custody without a probation officer and cannot be sentenced to jail by mobile courts.

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## Democrats kick off efforts to remove Trump

Vow to impeach him for 'incitement of insurrection' if VP Pence won't act

REUTERS, Washington

Congressional Democrats begin their drive to force President Donald Trump from office this week, with a House vote on articles of impeachment expected as early as Wednesday that could make him the only president in US history to be impeached twice.

"It is important that we act, and it is important that we act in a very serious and deliberative manner," Representative Jim McGovern, chairman of the Rules Committee, told CNN yesterday. "We

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## Global Covid-19 cases top 90m

Mass vaccination sites open in UK, NYC; half a million under lockdown as Beijing outbreak spreads

AGENCIES

Worldwide coronavirus cases surpassed 90 million yesterday, as nations around the globe raced to dose millions of people and extend or reinstate lockdowns to fight new coronavirus variants.

The new variants discovered initially in the United Kingdom and South Africa are rapidly spreading globally.

The coronavirus has picked up pace in the past few months with about one-third of total cases registered in the last 48 days, according to a Reuters tally.

Europe, which became the first region to report 25 million cases last week, remains the worst-affected area in the world, followed by North and Latin Americas with 22.4 million and 16.3 million cases respectively.

Europe has reported around 31% of about 1.93 million coronavirus-related deaths globally.

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## Four killed in 2 train accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people, including two of a family, were killed in train accidents in two districts yesterday.

In Cumilla, a man and his son were killed after a Dhaka-bound train hit them at Bannagar in Nagolkot upazila in the afternoon.

The victims are Mahbulul, 52, and his son Jishan, 5, of Uttar Bannagar of the upazila.

Locals said Jishan was playing on the railway track. Mahbulul noticed that an intercity train was crossing the area around 5:00pm.

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## Saudi Arabia launches car-free city



AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude exporter, announced Sunday the launch of an eco-city "with zero cars, zero streets and zero carbon emissions" at its futuristic NEOM mega development.

The \$500 billion NEOM project, set to be built from scratch along the kingdom's picturesque Red Sea coast, is billed as a development evocative of a sci-fi blockbuster.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman unveiled plans for a city, dubbed "THE LINE", in a presentation broadcast on state TV.

It consists of "a city of a million residents with a length of 170 kilometres (105 miles) that preserves 95 percent of nature within NEOM, with

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## Couple, two others killed in Gazipur fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Four people, including a couple, were killed and 20 others injured in a fire in Gazipur's Kaliakoir upazila yesterday.

Over 50 dwellings were also gutted in the fire that originated at "Kalampur Nobboi Colony" around 5:30am, said Kabirul Alam, station officer of Kaliakoir Fire Service.

The deceased are Milon Mia, 37, of Sandhailpur village under Gaibandha's Gabidaganj upazila, his wife Munni Begum, 30, Forhad Hossain, 40, of the

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A herd of wild elephants graze inside the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park at Dulhazaran under Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday after breaking through its walls. The herd has been there for at least seven days. A forest official said elephants often wander into the park due to habitat loss.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Quader Mirza warns of polls violence

Threatens officials with 'consequences'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader's younger brother Abdul Quader Mirza yesterday said officials of the administration, law enforcement agencies, and election commission would face dire consequences if the municipal election in Noakhali gets marred by irregularities.

"If anyone dies or gets injured or a house is set on fire on polling day, the DC [deputy commissioner], the SP [superintendent of police] and the returning officer will not be spared," he said.

Urging magistrates to act impartially, he said, "Fair

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### PRAYER TIMING APRIL 12

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:36 7:00  
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:40 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০২১-২০২৩**  
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**নির্বাচন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

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\*Issued in public interest as per notification to BSEC