

## DSCC changes strategy to curb culex mosquito

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said they are hopeful of controlling culex mosquitoes within the next two weeks.

"We have changed our strategy and hope that culex mosquitoes will be under control within the next two weeks," he said while talking to reporters after his visit to the Panthapath Box culvert. He also inaugurated a secondary transfer station at Panthakunja.

With the mosquito problem of Dhaka becoming more and more menacing, residents are being forced to strengthen their defenses against the insects. However, many complain that the city corporations' mosquito control measures are not effective in their areas.

On the other hand, although the city corporations are working throughout the year spraying larvicide and adulticide, stagnant waterbodies and lack of proper monitoring at field level are rendering their efforts ineffective, opined experts.

Faced with such a situation, residents of

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A truck of Dhaka North City Corporation carrying waste is stuck on a road divider after crashing onto it, as people attempt to direct other vehicles around it. Movement on Dhaka-Aricha Highway's Salehpur Bridge remained restricted for some time yesterday, as the driver of the truck had lost control over the vehicle.

## CONSTRUCTION AT BEGUM ROKEYA UNIV Costs doubled but work not finished

UGC probe committee recommends action against VC, his associates

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The cost of constructing two buildings at the campus of Begum Rokeya University Rangpur (BRUR) doubled due to anomalies and violations by the vice chancellor (VC) and his associates, and the construction work could not be completed in the last three years, a probe body of University Grants Commission (UGC) has found.

The probe body observed that BRUR VC Prof Nazmul Hsan Kalimullah and his close associates at the university violated the Public Procurement Act 2006 and Public Procurement Rules 2008, and recommended actions against them.

The prime minister inaugurated construction of Sheikh Hasina Female Student Dormitory and Dr Wazed Research and Training Institute at the campus via a virtual conference on January 4, 2017.

Both buildings are planned to be ten-storey high. The research institute's initial cost was Tk 26.87 crore, but mysteriously, the budget increased to Tk 61 crore. Tk 51.35 crore was allocated to construct the dormitory, but it doubled to Tk 107 crore, found the probe body.

Tk 40 lakh was spent as consultancy fees, although there was no

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## Ancient relic chamber discovered in Natেশ্বর

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

An ancient relic chamber has been discovered at Natেশ্বর village in Munshiganj district's Tongbari upazila.

Two large 180 square-metre octagonal mounds, a 17-metre protective wall and carved bricks were also found there. State Minister for Culture KM Khalid imparted the information as the chief guest at a press conference in Natেশ্বর village in the upazila's Abdullahpur at 11:30am yesterday.

Reading the press release signed by Dr Nooh-ul-Alam Lenin, director of archaeological excavations and research in the Bikrampur region, and Dr Sufi Mostafizur Rahman, director of research, the state minister said the earlier discovery of Natেশ্বর Deul at the level of the second civilisation (950-1223 AD) and the contents of the discovery clearly indicate that in the 10-11th century, there was a large and rich mound complex at Natেশ্বর archaeological site, which is the first in Bangladesh.

Among last year's discoveries, there was a large, aesthetic central octagonal mound of 25.2 square metres. It is surrounded by four mound-halls of 18 square metres. In each hall there are four mounds of 2.5 square metres.

A special architectural "relic chamber" at the centre of the octagonal mound is a rare and significant discovery. Belongings of Gautama Buddha and his important disciples were kept here, said the researchers in the press release.

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## The guerrillas of destiny

Tales from Chattogram's war journal

ARUN BIKASH DEV, Cg

AKM Raisul Huq Bahar was a guerilla freedom fighter. During the Liberation War, he took part in many operations in the port city and adjacent areas, playing a pivotal role in the region's liberation.

But his most significant operation came at the Kaiballadharm Railway Bridge operation, in Kattoli area, where a train carrying Pakistan army personnel and ammunition was blown off. What's more, the very rail bridge carrying them was destroyed.

At the start of the war, Bahar went to India to receive training on organising and conducting guerrilla war and war-planning. After coming back, he conducted his first operation in July 1971 -- an attack on a Pakistan army camp at a school adjacent to Bilonia border in Feni.

He went on to lead the guerrilla operation to destroy all the electric switchboards and transformers in Agrabad Commercial Area in the port city on August 5. Then on November 3, Bahar led an operation to destroy petrol pumps and transformers on the Chattogram-Dhaka Trunk Road, running from Dewan Hat Intersection to Kattoli.

Bahar breathed his last on September 18, 2018. Till 2015, he was a journalist and retired as



the chief of The Daily Star's Chattogram bureau. This correspondent came to know about his operations from personal conversations during their time together at the newspaper.

This correspondent also got accounts of the operation from Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, a group leader of Karnaphuli Contingent-3 of Bangladesh Liberation Force. The story of the Kaiballadharm Railway Bridge operation was also narrated in the article "Operation Kaiballadharm Rail Setu", published on Sangramer Notebook.

Bahar also described the events in an interview with freedom fighter Nasiruddin Yousuff.

### OPERATION KAIBALLADHAM

The Chattogram-Dhaka rail track is situated around 1,000 yards on the northern side of Colonel Hat at Kattoli. A series of hills and hillocks starting from Sitakunda along with hilly falls and canals surround the rail track. The bridge was situated over a canal in Kaiballadharm area.

By the time of this operation, the Pakistan

army in the port city was paranoid from the frequency of guerrilla attacks. Many of their soldiers were killed in the attacks, said Mahfuzur Rahman, a fifth-year student of Chattogram Medical College at that time.

Faced with the aggression, the Pakistan army was trying to get reinforcements from Feni, he added.

On a tip-off, the freedom fighters came to know about the train carrying the reinforcements. It was moving to and from Chattogram Railway Station, they discovered.

The train used to pass by Kaiballadharm area in the evening. "To know it, I asked the freedom fighters in the area to look into it for more information," said Mahfuzur, a group leader of BLF Karnaphuli Contingent-3. "Bahar was tasked with training locally recruited freedom fighters of Kattoli. I trusted him to deliver."

Bahar took shelter at a house at North Kattoli, in the guise of a lodging teacher. "He organised Musa, Shafi, Shahid Uddin Badal, Imtiaz Uddin Pasha, Bela, and Tofazzal. They visited the spot to gather intelligence for around a week," said Mahfuzur, now chairman of Research Centre of Bangladesh Freedom Struggle and Liberation War, Chattogram.

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## Shaheen Reza Noor laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist Shaheen Reza Noor was laid to rest in Dhaka's Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard yesterday.

He was buried at 3:30pm after his namaz-e-janaza, his brother Zaheed Reza Noor confirmed to The Daily Star.

Earlier in the day, people from all walks of life paid their last respect to Noor at Central Shaheed Minar.

After reaching Dhaka from Toronto early yesterday, his body was taken to the Shaheed Minar in Dhaka around 11:15am where hundreds of people -- including writers and political figures -- paid homage to him.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Mohammadpur and the second one at Dhaka University's central mosque.

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## 10 arrested after on-duty cop stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

An on-duty police personnel was stabbed by miscreants in Savar Municipality's Anandapur area early yesterday.

Mohammed Rabbi (25), a constable of Savar Model Police Station, was undergoing treatment at Enam Medical College Hospital, said police sources.

Saiful Islam, inspector (investigation) of the police station told The Daily Star that Rabbi came under attack around 2am when he along with a team of police members rushed to the area to detain the gang.

Ten people were arrested and sent to a Dhaka court with remand prayers. The arrestees are aged between 22 and 30, police said.

Saiful said, "We received a call through the 999 hotline that a group had snatched Tk 5,300 and a phone from a transport worker around 12am. A team of police personnel went to the spot to investigate."

Based on the information that the group may be hiding in a nearby kans grass field, police conducted a drive there. One of the gang members stabbed Constable Rabbi and attempted to escape.

Iqbal filed a case against 10 named and five unnamed persons.

Meanwhile, a group of drug traders on Tuesday night hacked three people in Sobhanbagh area, critically injuring them.

## Syndicate embezzled loans worth Tk 20cr using fake docs: DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police's Detective Branch (DB) claimed to have arrested five members of a gang that embezzled bank loans by creating and using fake national identity (NID) cards, trade licences and TIN certificates.

Law enforcers have found that the syndicate embezzled loans from 11 financial institutions and banks so far, said police.

Sources said they have embezzled around Tk 20 crore loan from the financial institutes.

The members used to first target a bank's branch and go there to take a loan against a flat.

Before visits to the flat, the fraudsters would fix a signboard for sale, and then take bank officials there. Using information of a flat seller, the criminals would then forge NID cards, TIN certificates and trade licences.

With the help of a section of lower-rank Election Commission (EC) officials, the gang members would upload the forged NID card information to the servers, before submitting NID to the bank for verification. Soon after the bank would complete verification for loan, the gang would remove the information from the servers.

AKM Hafiz Akter, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, made the disclosure while addressing a briefing at its media centre yesterday.

The arrestees are Al Amin alias Jamil Sharif (34), M Hasan Imam alias Bidyut (48), Abdullah Al Shahid (41), Rezaul Islam (38) and Shah Zaman (39).

Police arrested them from the capital's Khilgaon and Rampura areas on Tuesday. A private car used in the scam was seized.

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Some families who have been forced to move from Chattogram city's Laldiarchar, have been living with no roof over their heads for the last few nights. Authorities recently decided to evict them after an HC order, terming them illegal occupiers. But the residents, many of whom are living there for decades, decided to dismantle their own homes. This photo was taken yesterday from Patenga area of the port city.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Though the signboard in front of Malibagh's DB office specifically says no parking, the space adjacent to it is still taken up by motorbikes. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## APPRENTICE LAWYER'S DEATH IN CUSTODY

### High Court orders judicial inquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the chief metropolitan magistrate of Barishal to conduct a judicial inquiry into the allegation of torture and death of an apprentice lawyer, Rejaul Karim Reja, in police custody on the night of January 3.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order after hearing a petition filed by Rejaul's father Md Younus Munshi seeking its order for a judicial inquiry into the allegation.

Younus Munshi submitted the petition under the Criminal Procedure Code in the first week of February to the HC through lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir, apprehending that investigation of the case by police may not be fair as three police personnel have been made accused in the case.

Citing the petition, lawyer Manir told The Daily Star that Kotwali Police Station in Barishal has refused to record the case over the death of Rejaul in police custody as three police personnel were involved with the incident.

The Police Bureau of Investigation is now conducting a probe into the case in line with a court order, he said, adding that there is a reasonable apprehension that fair investigation by police may not take place.

The 30-year-old apprentice lawyer died in custody, four days after he was arrested by the Detective Branch of police in Barishal.

His father on the same day filed the case with the court against DB Sub-inspector Mohiuddin Mahi and two other members of DB on charge of torturing his son to death in custody.

In the case, charge of murder was brought, Shishir said, adding that The HC has powers under the CrPC to order for judicial inquiry into this case.

## CASE AGAINST SK SINHA

### Court asks IO for depositions on March 25

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked ACC director and investigation officer Benjir Ahmed to appear before it for depositions on March 25 in connection with the money laundering case filed against former Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha and 10 others.

Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka passed the order after recording statements of two prosecution witnesses -- Md Ehsan Khosru, managing director and chief executive of Padma Bank Limited, and Md Wahidur Rahman Chowdhury, manager of Dhaka Bank Limited's Uttara branch. Later, the defence cross-examined the two.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of 18 prosecution witnesses, including the complainant. On December 28 last year, SK Sinha's elder brother Narendra Kumar Sinha and his nephew gave their statements before same court. Seven of the accused were present yesterday while Sinha and three others are absconding.