

BARISHAL CITY CORPORATION

Canals being cleaned to ease waterlogging

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A month-long cleaning and sanitation operation is continuing in full swing at the canals of Barishal city.

"Objects blocking the canals' flow will be removed and some portions will be dug through this initiative," said Dr Rabiul Islam, conservancy officer of Barishal City Corporation and in-charge of the large-scale operation.

"We are going to clean all the drains and at least six major canals flowing into the city area, and also recover grabbed portions of the canals," he explained.

City corporation sources said the clean-up programme was inaugurated on April 26, at Chaumatha point of Nabgram canal by BCC Mayor Semiabat Sadiq Abdullah.

BCC authorities said the programme has been undertaken to prevent waterlogging in the city during the coming monsoon season.

The cleaning operation will



Barishal City Corporation workers use both machinery and manual methods to clean up a canal in Khalpar area of the city, in a bid to prevent waterlogging during monsoon.

PHOTO: TITU DAS



be carried out in the main canals of the city -- lakutia, jail canal, amanatganj, sagardi and nabagram canals.

Dr Rabiul Islam said, "In an earlier survey, there were 46 canals under BCC. But at least half of those have been lost due to pollution or illegal land grabbing. BCC had proposed a project to beautify and restore this canal about two years ago, but it has not yet been approved by the ministry concerned."

According to sources within the city corporation office, the project was revised and re-submitted over one year ago and would cost around Tk 2,700 crore, but it is still pending with the local government ministry.

BCC Mayor Semiabat Sadiq Abdullah said, "There was severe waterlogging in Barishal city last year. We are keeping the canals clean in advance so that people do not have to suffer during the monsoon. This is being funded by BCC."

Port city residents

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The civil surgeon said vaccine will only be administered to those who will receive a text message containing the details of their second dose.

"The programme is set to continue at least until Eid, until we get further instruction from the government."

Meanwhile, sources in the civil surgeon's office said although the vaccination programme hasn't stopped yet, it has indeed slowed down due to the shortage of vaccine in stock.

That's why many who should be notified of their second dose dates are yet to receive a scheduled date for it, they added.

Preferring anonymity, an official from the civil surgeon office said they had instruction from the government to continue the vaccination programme until the Eid vacation, despite the stock shortage.

"This is why we have cut down the number of vaccine recipients per day," he said. "We used to schedule 1,000 to 1,500 people per day, we have now brought the number down to around half of that," the official said.

According to some experts, people who got the first dose of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine should not be worried even if

they do not get the second dose within two months or eight weeks. According to a recent study, the second dose of this vaccine can be received until up to 12 weeks from the first dose.

Dr Munira Jahan, professor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University's Department of Virology, said according to the study, a 12-week interval between the two doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine can in fact bring better results.

Echoing the same, her colleague from the same department Dr Afzalunnesa said, "I believe the government should be able to manage the vaccine, considering this 12-week interval between the doses."

"Therefore, every person who received the first dose of Oxford-AstraZeneca should be able to get their second ones too."

Contacted, Civil Surgeon Dr Rabbi declined to mention exactly how many doses of vaccine are currently in stock.

He said a total of 453,760 people in Chattogram -- both the city and 15 upazilas -- have received the first dose of vaccine.

Of them, a total of 316,301 people have also received the second dose till date, which means a total of 137,459 people are yet to receive their second doses.

PROVIDENT FUND

BRTC launches online banking for retired officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) has introduced an online banking system to provide the contributory provident fund (CPF) to its retired staffers.

For the first time, 75 retired staffers of the state-run transport agency received Tk 75 lakh in total on Sunday and will get rest of their payment through the system.

Under the system, their dues would be sent to their respective accounts of a private bank and they would be able to withdraw the money without any hassle.

BRTC yesterday organised a programme at its headquarters in the capital where its chairman Md Tazul Islam joined as chief guest.

These retired persons had to come to BRTC headquarters from different districts and in some cases, they had to come here for multiple times in case of not being able to see the designated persons, he said.

"With the introduction of online system, we will get rid of these types of hassles," he added.

Last month, BRTC introduced a similar online system to pay the gratuity of its retired staffers.

Total 168 retired staffers have their CPF dues while 254 have their gratuity dues, Amjad Hossain, general manager (accounts) of BRTC. "We are hopeful about paying all dues of 15 to 20 persons in every month if the Covid situation does not deteriorate further," he said.

Corona

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Addressing the discussion, former adviser to World Health Organization (WHO) Prof Muzaherul Huq said the global health body has been emphasising community engagement and awareness building since the preliminary stages of the pandemic.

What The Hunger Project is doing through community engagement is an ideal initiative, he said, stressing that it could be a pioneering initiative in the future.

Public health expert Abu Jamil Faisal said it is important to consider how the initiative could be implemented in urban areas.

Among others, Mahmudur Rahman, former director of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), and WHO consultant Taufique Joardar spoke at the event.

Freedom fighter attacked over land dispute in M'singh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A freedom fighter was injured after being attacked over land dispute in Gafargaon upazila of Mymensingh yesterday morning.

Md Moyez Uddin (67) from Rasulpur Chakpara area in Gafargaon is also a retired principal of Chakpara Government Primary School.

Quoting locals and family sources, officer-in-charge of Gafargaon Police Station Anukul Chandra Sarker said Moyez Uddin had a longstanding feud with a neighbour Rafiqul Islam (54) over a piece of land.

Rafiqul's men had started digging the disputed land early in the morning yesterday, the police official further said.

When Moyez rushed to the spot and asked them to stop, Rafiqul and his men became furious and attacked Moyez with sharp weapons, injuring him seriously.

Hearing his screams, locals rushed to the spot and took him to Gafargaon Upazila Health Complex, said the OC. Police visited the spot as well.

Md Tajul Islam, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Gafargaon, visited the injured freedom fighter at the hospital.

However, no case was lodged and no one was arrested in connection with the incident, until the time of filing this report last evening.

Why isn't

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vaccine for the Bangavax trial. But without getting permission from BMRC, the country is not getting success in producing the home made vaccine.

Citing researchers, Quader said that a single dose of effective antibody was found in the animal trial of the vaccine. Researchers expect similar results in clinical trials. The one-dose vaccine is synthetically made and is virus free and 100 percent halal.

Therefore, besides importing foreign vaccines, the government should also help in the production of Bangavax.

If Bangavax succeeds in the clinical trial, it will be possible to export abroad by meeting the demand of the country, he also said.

The Clinical Research Organization on

January 17 has asked for permission to launch a clinical trial of Covid-19 vaccine Bangavax, developed by Globe Biotech Ltd of Bangladesh.

The organisation, in an application submitted to BMRC, sought to hold first and second phase clinical trials, said chief investigator of the trial Prof Mamun Al Mahtab. Globe Biotech got permission on January 6 from the Directorate General of Drug Administration to manufacture the doses needed in a clinical trial.

On October 5 last year, Globe announced that its first vaccine candidate had shown promises in pre-clinical trials on mice. Researchers initially named it Bancovid and later renamed it as Bangavax.

Danger not

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"But the number of people dying due to diarrhoea is on the rise as people are bringing those affected to hospitals at the last moment," he added.

Dr Monowar Hossain, civil surgeon of Barishal, said the number of deaths would have been much less had patients sought treatment at the right time.

On March 1-14, an eight-member team of IEDCR visited the area and found the bacterium E coli in stools of patients, said Dr Basudeb Kumar Das.

The team sent their observation to Barishal General Hospital last week.

According to the Divisional Health Office, IEDCR Director Prof Tahmina Shirin signed the report, which said 71 percent of the patients did daily household chores with water from rivers, canals and ponds.

They recommended using water from deep tube wells, instead of surface water.

Asked, Divisional Commissioner Md Saiful Islam Badal said, "We have initiated campaigns at upazila level to raise awareness among people."

Mamunul

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with the same police station against Rafiqul, alleging anti-state remarks and inciting chaos.

Rafiqul was also placed on a five-day remand in another case filed with Tejgaon Police Station on April 11 under the Digital Security Act.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Nivana Khair Jesi passed the orders after two investigators produced them before the court with two petitions.

In the petitions, the IOs appealed to

confine the duo until the case's investigation is completed.

No lawyers were present in the court to defend them.

Upon hearing both sides, the magistrate sent them to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

Mamunul was arrested on April 18 from Jamia Rahmania Arabia madrasa in the capital's Mohammadpur area.

On April 7, Rab arrested Rafiqul from his ancestral home in Netrokona's Purbatola area.

UAE suspends

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The UAE's decision exempts transit flights coming to the UAE and heading towards these countries, reports Gulf News.

This decision is applicable to the entry of travellers who were in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka in the last 14 days before coming to the UAE.

However, flights between these countries and the UAE will continue to operate, allowing the transportation of passengers from the UAE to those countries.

Some categories are exempt from the

travel suspension. These include UAE citizens, diplomatic missions and official delegations.

However, they will be subject to some precautionary measures that include a Covid-19 negative result valid for 48 hours.

The authorities also called upon all travellers affected by the decision to follow up with the relevant airlines to change or reschedule their flights and to ensure their safe return to their final destinations without delay.



Eid shopping is going on full swing at Khulna city, with customers swarming shopping malls and fashion outlets. This is also putting quite the strain on the city's traffic, with a Nirapad Sharak Chai spokesperson blaming it on the over 20,000 "easy-bikes" and 25,000 battery-run rickshaws plying the streets. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

5 lakh doses

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vaccine vials that changes colour with exposure to heat, thus warning health professionals if the doses go bad," he said.

At yesterday's event, DCAB President Pantho Rahaman and General Secretary AKM Moimuddin also spoke.

Govt. College of Commerce
Chattogram
www.gov.commercecollege@gmail.com

Memo No. CEDP/GCC/2020-2021/OTM/G-5/21 Date: 09/05/2021

e-Tender Notice G-5/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

SI No.	Tender ID No.	Name of package	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	576747	Procurement of Furniture for Library, Female Common Room, Classroom, Seminar Room, Office and Digital Lab.	31-May-2021 13:00	31-May-2021 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to **30-May-2021 16:00**.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Ferdous Ara Begum
Principal (Acting)
Govt. College of Commerce, Chattogram
Phone: 031-721900
E-mail: gcomidp@gmail.com

GD-947

Increase

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NBR (National Board of Revenue) saying increase in tobacco taxes would harm the poor. The reality is quite the contrary. Increase in tobacco taxes benefits the poor the most."

AAMS Arefin Siddique, chairman of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), stressed on including lessons on detrimental effects of tobacco in national curriculum and co-curricular activities.

Additional Director-General of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora said reducing affordability and use of cigarettes through tax increases allows people, particularly the poor, to spend more on nutrition and other necessities.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Govt. Sundarban Adarsha College
231, Khan Jahan Ali Road, Khulna
Website: www.gsac.edu.bd

Memo No. GSAC/Goods/CEDP/G-11/2020-2021/06/88 Date: 09/05/2021

e-Tender Notice 03/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

SI No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	578118	Procurement of 45 KVA Diesel Generator and 2.0 Ton Air Conditioner (AC) of Govt. Sundarban Adarsha College.	25-May-2021 1:00pm	25-May-2021 2:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' Branches up to **24-May-2021 4.00pm**.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Held Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman
Principal (In Charge)
Govt. Sundarban Adarsha College
Phone: 02477721915
e-Mail: govt.sundarban.ac@gmail.com

GD-948