



The steady outflow of people from the capital continued yesterday, as many scampered to leave Dhaka ahead of the upcoming “strict lockdown” that is now set to begin from Thursday. As inter-district buses remain off the streets, people crammed themselves in whatever vehicle they could -- microbuses, motorbikes, CNG-run auto-rickshaws -- or even went on foot, to exit the megacity. The photos were taken from Gabtoli Bridge and Postogola Bridge yesterday around noon.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, AMRAN HOSSAIN



CHATTOGRAM CITY CORPORATION

Red flags raised after 18 suspicious birth certificates issued

Miscreants accessed server when it was down for upgradation; CT unit begins probe

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Unidentified miscreants issued 18 dubious birth registration certificates in Chattogram, after accessing the server when it was disabled for upgradation work.

The certificates were issued from user IDs and passwords of three ward councillors’ offices under Chattogram City Corporation (CCC), but investigators said the incident took place on February 14 when issuing of birth registration was suspended for upgradation of the <https://bdris.gov.bd> portal.

After detecting the incidents, birth registration assistants of CCC ward-40 (North Patenga) Md Emdadul Haque, ward-41 (South Patenga) Ratan Kumar Chowdhury and ward-16 (Chawkbazar) Ahsanul Karim filed three cases on June 9 with respective Patenga and Chawkbazar police stations under the Digital Security Act.

The cases are now being investigated by Counter Terrorism (CT) Division of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP).

According to the case statement filed by Md Ahsan Karim of Chawkbazar ward, issuing of birth registration certificates online had been suspended from February 8 to 28 due to software development. On March 1, a new user ID and password was given to him from Chattogram District Administration office. After entering with the new ID and password, he found seven new entries which were issued from his office dated February 14.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

THREE ‘ANSAR AL ISLAM OPERATIVES’ ARRESTED

They tried to infiltrate Rohingya camps: CTTC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members banned militant outfit Ansar Al Islam attempted to recruit Rohingya refugees in guise of providing aid in camps in Cox’s Bazar, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit claimed yesterday.

Md Asaduzzaman, chief of CTTC unit and additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said they found the information after the arrest of three members of the extremist group on Saturday night.

As per directives of the outfit’s top leadership, its member Maruf Chowdhury alias Farhan even stayed near the Bangladesh-Myanmar border for three months in 2017, Asaduzzaman said.

Based on information, a special action group of CTTC conducted a drive in the capital’s Rampura and arrested the three, he added.

The other arrestees are Md Foyzul Morsalin (32) and Sayed Taimia Ibrahim alias Anowar (30).

Addressing a briefing, Asaduzzaman said, “In primary interrogation, the arrestees admitted that they were working to strengthen Ansar Al Islam’s organisational base by recruiting new members through online and offline campaigns, and collecting fund.”

He said members of the outfit used to collect charity and zakat money from the country and abroad in the name of public welfare or charity, and used it for militancy.

“They have even stayed on the border in Bangladesh-Myanmar after the Rohingya influx in 2017 and tried to spread extremist ideology under the guise of providing aid,” he said.

The CTTC chief, however, said that they are now trying to get details of who have helped the group to work in the coastal district.

“We would also interrogate arrestees taking them into remand to know whether they have succeeded to spread any activities in Rohingya camp,” he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

A ‘joke’ in the name of lockdown: Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday described the nationwide lockdown announced by the government to contain coronavirus spread as a “joke”, since it repeatedly failed to fully enforce such restrictions in recent times.

“The government has again announced a lockdown for seven days, which has now turned into a joke. It’s now saying the lockdown will be enforced from Thursday instead of Monday. It’s a joke,” said party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

He said, “The lockdown has become completely ineffective due to the incompetence and irresponsibility of the government. Lockdown can never be fruitful without ensuring food for the poor and day-labourers and transferring cash to workers in the informal sector.”

The BNP leader made the remarks while speaking at a press conference at BNP chairperson’s Gulshan office on the outcomes of the party standing committee’s virtual meeting held on Saturday.

Asked why he considers the lockdown to be a joke, Fakhrul said the government first announced a general holiday and then enforced a lockdown last year. “It was seen that many workers went back home with the holiday’s announcement, and they came back again. They [govt] now announced a lockdown when there’s a lockdown in place. Isn’t it a joke?”

He said the government has shut inter-district transport services from the capital without any proper plan. “That’s

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

BARISHAL SHER-E-BANGLA MEDICAL COLLEGE

Hospital turns filthy as patient pressure surges

Concerns grow as Covid-19 cases spike in Khulna

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, the only large medical facility in Barishal division, is in derelict condition as the number of patients continue to swell amid rising Covid-19 infections.

During a visit to the hospital yesterday, most of the wards on the second floor and above were found to have no access to drinking water. Even most toilets do not have water.

The hospital was filled with waste, there were electrical problems, and plaster was seen coming off the walls.

Meanwhile, after hearing news of the lockdown, hundreds of people rushed to the main outpatient department of the hospital. On-duty doctors said usually 800-1,200 receive outpatient service every day, but the number reached 2,000 yesterday.

Divisional Commissioner Saiful Islam Badal expressed anger over the hospital’s condition at a virtual meeting centring Covid-19 yesterday.

“Please fix the hospital’s environment. In addition, tell me what action will be taken to resolve the situation,” he said.

Most of the speakers there appealed to authorities of the hospital to make it comfortable for patients.

HM Saiful Islam, the hospital’s director, said, “I visited the second floor

today [yesterday] and saw that there was no water.”

He said despite the dilapidated condition, Public Works Department (PWD) was not doing anything to solve the problems. Currently, there is no access to water for most of the wards, and issues with electricity are present due to poor supply lines. Two new lifts have still not been installed, and there is no separate electricity sub-station for the Covid-19 situation. Most of the air-conditioners are also out of order, he said.

In a meeting at Barishal Club on Saturday afternoon about the Covid-19 situation, Barishal City Corporation Mayor Semiatat Sadiq Abdullah also expressed concerns over the hospital’s condition.

The mayor said the health secretary was making sure that Barishal gets what it needs.

Meanwhile, a patient admitted at the hospital said that the elevators are sometimes non-functional.

Even the premises are dirty because they are not regularly cleaned, he said.

Another patient admitted at the Covid-19 ward said the sink and toilet are dirty, the stairs are broken, and the floors are not cleaned every day.

Asked about it, the hospital’s director

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

31 Rohingyas held in Ctg for fleeing camps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested 31 Rohingya people, who fled from the different camps in Cox’s Bazar and took jobs in households, from Boalkhali upazila of Chattogram early yesterday.

The law enforcers filed a case with Boalkhali Police Station, accusing them under Foreigners Act.

Officer-in-Charge of the police station Abdul Karim told The Daily Star, “Following a tip-off, police raided the hilly Karaldanga area around 5:30am and arrested the 31 Rohingyas.”

“They were working there as low-cost labourers,” he added.

“They fled their camps in Cox’s Bazar and illegally resided there hiding their identities,” the OC said.

ROHINGYA NID SCAM

Latest arrestee remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court in Chattogram yesterday put the personal secretary of Chattogram Election Commission (EC) office assistant Joynal on one-day police remand in a case filed with Kotwali police station on charge of helping Rohingya refugees obtain Bangladeshi National Identity (NID) cards with help of Election Commission staffers.

The court of metropolitan magistrate Mehnaz Rahman passed the remand order for Md Jafar alias Shwapan (38), after he was produced before the court.

Jafar was arrested by members of Counter Terrorism (CT) Division of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) from Ishwarganj under Mymensingh on Saturday night.

CT Inspector Sanjoy Sinha, Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, said, “In the Chattogram EC office, Jafar is known as the secretary of arrested office assistant Joynal.”

“Jafar used to work for Joynal in 2015; he gathered Rohingyas who searched Bangladeshi NID and brought them to Joynal, through local ‘brokers’,” he added.

“For the work, Joynal used to pay Jafar

around 30,000 Taka per month,” said Inspector Sinha.

According to CT sources, Jafar’s came up after arrest of two Rohingya brokers Najib Ullah and Absar Ullah in April. During primary interrogation, Jafar said he got introduced to Joynal at the EC office when he went there to withdraw an NID card in 2015. Later Joynal and Jafar became good friends.

Jafar told investigators that he used to receive the Rohingya people from brokers Najib Ullah and Absar Ullah and took them to Joynal’s residence to make Bangladeshi NID. From the house, Joynal took the fingerprints and photos of the refugees and later uploaded them to the NID server through the designated devices of EC, said sources.

The sources said Jafar mailed the printed NID documents and transferred money through Kazir Dewri SA Paribahan to another accused Satya Sundor Dey in Dhaka.

After the NID scam came to light, Jafar left his city’s Bakalia residence and went to Mymensingh.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Zead Al Malum laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zead Al Malum, a freedom fighter and senior prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), was laid to rest at Mirpur martyred intellectual graveyard yesterday.

Malum, a Supreme Court lawyer, breathed his last on Saturday midnight at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka, when his life support was withdrawn, senior consultant of ICT Mehdi Maswood told The Daily Star. Earlier, the 67-year-old was admitted to Bangladesh Specialised Hospital in Dhaka on May 25, after a cardiac arrest, and was on life support there. Later, he was shifted to CMH, he said.

Malum, who was affiliated with Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB),

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Four cattle traders die in Jashore road crash

One killed, 10 hurt in Savar

STAR REPORT

Five people were killed and 11 others injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Jashore, four cattle traders were killed and another was injured in a head-on collision between a truck and a private car on Benapole-Jashore highway in Dhopakhola area.

The deceased were identified as Nayan Ali (40), Jony Mia (38), Naeem Hossain (50) and Sadman (48).

Jashore Kotwali Police Station OC Tajul Islam said the four -- who were in the car -- were going to a market in Sharsha upazila of Jashore to buy cattle ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

When the car reached Dhopakhola area, it collided with the oncoming truck, leaving them dead on the spot.

Another cattle trader Shahabuddin was admitted to Jashore General Hospital in critical condition, said police.

In Savar, a passenger of a bus was killed and 10 others were injured as the vehicle fell into a ditch beside Dhaka-Aricha highway.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

The accident occurred around 9am in front of Jahangirnagar University when the driver of Dhaka-bound Moumita Paribahan bus lost control while he and a covered-van driver were in a race to overtake each other, said Abdur Rahim, sub-inspector of Savar Highway Police Station.

They seized both vehicles but the drivers managed to flee, said the SI.

Alam Mia, a passenger of the bus, said other passengers of the vehicle requested its driver to drive carefully but no avail.



US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller yesterday joined USAID Mission Director Derrick S Brown to launch a photography book, “Golden Jubilee of Golden Bengal”, illustrating the longstanding partnership between the United States and Bangladesh. The book launch and photography exhibit was held at a hotel in the capital.

PHOTO COURTESY: US EMBASSY DHAKA

One-third of CCC budget to be spent on paying off dues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The mayor of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) Rezaul Karim Chowdhury yesterday declared a Tk 2,463.96 crore budget for CCC in the 2021-22 fiscal.

Of the proposed budget, Tk 1,570 crore is expected as development grant.

Tk 834 crore, about one-third of the budget, have been allotted to pay pending dues. Tk 882 crore have been earmarked for development, while Tk 740 crore have been allotted for salaries, benefits, operations and maintenance.

The mayor declared the budget at Theatre Institute of Chattogram, his first since taking office.

Different projects including producing power from waste, CCC smart city project, metro rail project, expansion of airport road, building housing for CCC staffers, building sports complex, building overpasses over different rail crossing, development of Thandachhari park, sea site ocean park beside outer ring road,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5