



Dhaka University's TSC and its surrounding areas used to be a regular visiting spot for families. Parents would come in with their children, and buy them balloons and other toys they could find. But post-Covid, that very culture has gone missing. Failing to find customers, or an alternative means of earning, sellers of the area now roam around with their balloons, hoping they stumble upon customers on the way. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'Is ACC above the law? NO!'

HC slams anti-graft watchdog for failing to finish probe, submit report in graft cases on time

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court in the full text of a verdict has come down hard on the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for its failure to complete investigations and submitting their reports to the lower courts concerned in connection with corruption cases on time.

"...in many cases, even after years, the ACC couldn't submit charge-sheet/enquiry report which is totally a violation of statutory provisions of law. Moreover, in many cases no actions have been taken against the investigating/inquiry officer/s though there is a special provision for taking legal action/s against the officials concerned in the statute."

"We have noticed that many cases were filed for embezzlement of money through corruption in the banks, financial institutions and in many government departments but no positive steps are being taken to expedite the proceedings of inquiry, investigation and trial as well. No satisfactory explanations are being given by the commission."

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SAYS HC BENCH IN FULL TEXT VERDICT

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"The question arises: is the commission above the law? The answer is certainly no," the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Mohi Uddin Shamim observed in the full text of verdict.

The 72-page full text judgement was released on Tuesday after the judges completed writing and signing it.

ACC chief counsel Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that an investigation officer

of the ACC gets maximum 270 working days for completing investigation into a corruption case under the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004.

On January 24 this year, the HC bench delivered a short verdict on a revision petition filed by ACC challenging an order of Rangpur Special Judges Court that discharged Kurigram Rural Electrification

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

SKY IS THE LIMIT

Skyscraper's innovative concept from a Bangladeshi engineer

SHARIFUL HASAN

It may surprise many to know that in the global race to build the tallest skyscrapers, two Bangladeshis have made towering contributions.

Bangladeshi structural engineer and architect, Fazlur Rahman Khan, introduced an important structural system in the 1960s that made the construction of 140-storied buildings possible.

Following in the footsteps of Khan, now another Bangladeshi engineer,



I have shown in my structural concept that it is possible to build a 3,262 feet high (one kilometer) skyscraper. At present, if you want to build a building beyond the 20th floor, you have to pay attention to issues related to wind and earthquakes. This requires some additional structural methods that cost a lot of money. But in my structural concept, these are not necessary.

Feroz Alam, has come up with a structural concept that would allow for the construction of a 264-storied structure or a skyscraper as tall as one kilometer.

Alam's book "Parallel Shear Walls (PSW)-An Innovative Concept on Mega Tall Buildings" published in 2016 has already captivated the structural engineering world. His book ranked 26 out of the 100 structural engineering publications of all times, according to BookAuthority.

It is also ranked 60th among the 100 best-selling books on structural engineering.

Due to the growing demand, Alam's



book has been published in nine languages -- English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, and Russian.

The novelty of Alam's invented concept is the use of "parallel shear walls" instead of "columns in buildings".

While the column transfers vertical load from top to the bottom, shear wall -- a special type of concrete wall -- can resist horizontal force in a building due to its sheer strength.

"I have shown in my structural concept that it is possible to build a 3,262 feet high (one kilometer) skyscraper. At present, if you want to build a building beyond the 20th floor, you have to pay attention to issues related to wind and earthquakes. This requires some additional structural methods that cost a lot of money. But in my structural concept, these are not necessary," Feroz Alam told The Daily Star recently.

He also said that his concept does not require a vanity height, while referring to Burj Al Khalifa, the world's tallest skyscraper in Dubai.

Standing at 2,619 feet tall, Burj Al Khalifa has up to 2,060 feet for commercial and personal use. The remaining 659 feet is called the vanity height or beauty enhancement part.

Alam, who worked as a structural engineer in different countries of the Middle East for more than 20 years, came to the global spotlight when his innovative concept "Parallel Shear Walls" was published in the American Journal of Civil Engineering in 2016.

The University of Illinois invited Alam to give a presentation on the new concept. Afterwards, a German publishing house, "Scholars Press" approached him to write a book on his groundbreaking work.

Feroz's book was completed in 2016

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Dengue claims two more lives

LGRD minister calls for joint effort to fight mosquito menace

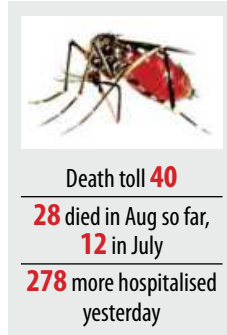
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more dengue patients died while at least 278 more were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday which points to the fast-rising trend of the disease, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the 278 new cases of dengue infection, 48 are from outside Dhaka, according to the DGHS.

With the new cases, a total of 5,917 people were diagnosed in this month out of the total 8,853 infected.

According to DGHS, 40 people have died of dengue infection this year so far. Among the infected, 1,090 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 103



Death toll 40

28 died in Aug so far,

12 in July

278 more hospitalised

yesterday

outside the capital.

Meanwhile, Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD) minister Md Tazul Islam yesterday urged city dwellers to be careful so that rooftop gardens do not become Aedes mosquito breeding grounds.

He made the comments while speaking at an inter-ministerial meeting at LGD conference room.

He also unveiled a national guideline on preventive measures for mosquito borne diseases at the meeting.

The LGRD minister also said stagnant water due to early monsoon was favourable for Aedes mosquito breeding this year.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Thousands apply for Umrah

Confusion remains over Sinovac, Sinopharm vaccines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following Saudi Arabia's recent announcement to accept foreign Umrah pilgrims, different Hajj agencies in Bangladesh started receiving applications. However, the intended pilgrims' vaccination status has to be approved by the Middle Eastern country.

According to Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB), thousands of intended pilgrims have already applied to perform Umrah.

HAAB President Shahadat Hossain Taslim yesterday said intended pilgrims are expected to fly to Saudi Arabia from next month.

Bangladeshi Muslims could not perform Hajj and Umrah in the last two years amid the pandemic, he told this newspaper.

At present, many intended pilgrims, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, have been enquiring about their eligibility to perform Umrah in Saudi Arabia, said the HAAB president.

He said pre-pandemic, about 2,50,000 Bangladeshis could perform Umrah in a year.

He urged the government to ensure inoculation of intended pilgrims with vaccines that are approved by Saudi Arabia.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Caught up in uncertainty

Over 7,000 UAE-bound workers in despair for lack of PCR test facility at Bangladesh airports

RASHIDUL HASAN

Several thousand UAE-bound Bangladeshi expatriate workers are passing days in uncertainty over returning to the gulf country due to absence of rapid PCR test facilities of Covid-19 in Bangladesh airports.

Around 7,000 Bangladeshi expatriate workers returned home over the last several months, sources at different recruiting agencies said.

As there is no equipment for rapid PCR test, the system couldn't be introduced at the country's airports.

Sources at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has said the initiative to buy a rapid PCR test machine is a "time consuming" matter.

After a three-month ban on flight operations due to pandemic, the UAE on August 4 allowed to carry passengers from Bangladesh and six other countries.

However, the condition is that passengers with a negative report can enter the UAE by testing for Covid-19 in the rapid PCR method right before departure.

"We will lose our jobs if we cannot

return to our workplaces in the UAE. If the problem is not solved quickly, visas of many expatriate workers will expire," said UAE-bound Alim Hossain.

Workers said they will be forced to stage a movement if the government does not arrange rapid PCR tests facilities at the airports within a short time.

Workers have already organised human chains in different districts in this regard.

They have also submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has written to DGHS to arrange rapid PCR test facilities at airports.

At a programme on August 23, Minister Imran Ahmad said they have not received a reply from the DGHS.

Contacted, a DGHS official said, "We have received a letter from the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare. But it is a time consuming matter to complete all the process..."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

A day's rain submerges port city

ARUN BIKASH DEY, CIG

The port city once again went under water as yesterday's overnight torrential rain, coupled with tidal surge, created waterlogging in its low lying areas, wrecking havoc on citizen life.

The most affected areas include Chawkbazar, Sholoshahar Gate 2, Bahaddarhat, Muradpur, West Bakalia DC Road, KB Aman Ali Road, Agrabad CDA Residential Area, Katalganj R/A, Panchlaish R/A, Shulak Bahar, Khatunganj, Dewan Bazar, and Halishahar.

In the 12 hours till noon yesterday, Chattogram Met Office recorded 110mm of rainfall.

Met official Sheikh Farid Ahmed said heavy to moderate rain would continue in the district for up to two to three days due to active presence of monsoon in the area.

During visits to different areas,



Yesterday's downpour was one of the worst for residents, as many had to deal with waist-deep water at multiple locations, including Gate-2 area, left, while firefighters were busy searching for a man who fell into a canal at Muradpur, as the pathway was submerged. He couldn't be found as of filing this report at 9pm.

this correspondent saw people living on the ground floor of buildings and in tin-roofed houses were bailing water out of their homes.

Staffers in roadside shops were

also seen doing the same. This correspondent caught Babul Shil, owner of a barbershop on KB Aman Ali Road, sweeping out water from his store.

"After opening the shop in

the morning, we found water everywhere," he said. "I don't think we'll be making any money till noon as it's going to take time to get the floors clean and dry."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Australian International School Dhaka
Congratulates them for Outstanding Performance
IBDP Class of 2021

<p>Amrita Kamar Hug Scored 42 out of 45 Received scholarships worth \$100,000</p>	<p>Choyon Mainul Hasan Scored 40 out of 45</p>	<p>Aafwan Ahmed Sheersho Scored 39 out of 45 Received scholarship worth 60000 AUD</p>
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