



A sudden shower of rain might be welcomed by those looking out the windows, but at the same time, can be a bane for people out in the streets. For example, these two found themselves in the middle of a downpour at the capital's Tejgaon yesterday. With no other option, they took refuge under a piece of polythene, hoping to stay dry throughout their journey.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Govt approves 200-bed Covid Field Hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has approved a project to build a 200-bed Covid Field Hospital at Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Convention Center under Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The approval was given at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs yesterday with Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal in the chair.

The decision came when the hospital has already been in operation since August 7.

Primarily, the hospital, named as Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Covid-19 Field Hospital, has been launched with 356 beds, including 20 beds at the Intensive Care Unit and 20 beds at the High Dependency Unit.

Health officials said there will be a total of 1,000 beds at the hospital.

At yesterday's meeting, the construction of a 200-bed Covid Field Hospital was approved in the first phase, the finance minister told reporters in a virtual briefing following the meeting.

He said that it would cost an estimated Tk 10.28 crore.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs at the same meeting sent back a proposal to hire a Chinese contractor for the maintenance and toll collection after the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel under the Karnaphuli river in Chattogram comes into operation.

Bangladesh Bridge Authority has selected China Communications Construction Company Limited, which is now building the tunnel, for the maintenance and toll collection work under direct procurement method for five years after the tunnel is completed.

But the cabinet committee at its virtual meeting with the minister in the chair yesterday sent back the proposal.

During post meeting press briefing, he, however, declined to reveal reason behind their decision.

Enact law for EC formation

Demands GM Quader
UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday demanded the enactment



of a law in line with the constitution to have a permanent solution to the problem over formation of the Election Commission (EC).

In a statement, he said, "It's very unfortunate that there's no law in the country to form the Election Commission, even after 50 years of independence."

GM Quader, also the deputy opposition leader in parliament, said there is a clear instruction in the constitution that a law must be formulated to constitute the EC.

"We want the Election Commission to be formed through a law in the light of the constitution which will help ensure the voting rights of people. It can also help have a permanent solution to the Election Commission formation issue," he observed.

The JP chief said

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CASE AGAINST SK SINHA Court to deliver verdict Oct 5

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed October 5 for delivering the judgment of a case filed over Tk 4 crore money laundering against former Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha and 10 others.

Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka set the date on completion of closing arguments in the case.

The 10 other accused are AKM Shamim, Gazi Salahuddin, Swapan Kumar Roy, Md Lutful Haque, Md Shahjahan, Niranjana Chandra Saha, Shafiuddin Askary Ahmed, Ranjit Chandra Saha, Santri Roy and Mahbubul Haque Chisty alias Babul Chisty.

A total of 21 prosecution witnesses gave their deposition in the case before the court, said the state lawyer.

During yesterday's closing arguments, Shamim, Salahuddin, Swapan, Lutful, Shahjahan and Niranjana, who are now on bail, were present at the court. Only Mahbubul, who is now behind bars, was produced before the court from the jail.

Meanwhile, Mahbubul fell sick on the dock of the courtroom around 11:50am when the prosecution was presenting their arguments before the court yesterday.

After the judge directed the court police to take him to a hospital, Mahbubul was rushed to nearby Dhaka National Medical

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COURT CHRONICLES

CID presses charges against Piyasha's aide

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police has pressed charges against Sharful Hasan alias Mishu Hasan, a close associate of model and former TV presenter Faria Mahbub Piyasha, in an arms case filed with Bhatara Police Station.

IO Mohammad Rahat Khan, also an CID Inspector, submitted the charge sheet on September 13 to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, showing 12 people as prosecution witnesses.

On August 3, Rab arrested Mishu and Masudul Hasan alias Jisan, another associate of Piyasha, from Bashundhara residential area. Later, Rab recovered a firearm, 1,600 yaba pills, a Ferrari car, fake Indian currency and some pornography CDs from their possession.

Rab filed five cases against them, of which four were with Bhatara and one with Khilkhet police under the Arms Act, Narcotics Control Act, Special Powers Act and Pornography Act.

Tk 88.98 LAKH GRAFT CASE Former E-orange owner, CEO shown arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two people, including Masukur Rahman, former owner of e-commerce platform E-orange, were shown arrested yesterday in a case filed with Gulshan Police Station for embezzling around Tk 88.94 lakh.

The other accused is Aman Ullah Chowdhury, CEO of E-orange.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury passed the order after Aminul Islam, inspector (investigation) of Gulshan Police Station and also the case's investigation officer, submitted an application seeking permission for showing them arrested in the case.

Masukur, brother-in-law of suspended Inspector Sheikh Sohel Rana of Banani Police Station, was sent to jail on August 17 after surrender before another Dhaka court in connection with a different case filed with the same police station over embezzlement of around Tk 11,00 crore from customers. Sohel Rana was detained by India's Border Security Force on September 3. Aman Ullah was arrested in connection with the same case.

On September 1, Masukur and Aman Ullah were shown arrested in a case filed with Kotwali Police Station over misappropriating Tk 23.25 lakh from investors. They were also placed on a two-day remand each in the case that day.



Three more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more dengue patients have died while 288 more were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday.

A total of 57 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year, all of whom died in July, August, and September.

Twelve people died in July, 34 have died in August, and 11 have died in September so far.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with the new cases, a total of 14,509 were hospitalised this year, of whom 1,538 are from outside Dhaka.

Among the 288 new cases, 56 are from outside the capital.

With the new cases, a total of 4,153 were diagnosed during the running month.

At least 7,698 were diagnosed in August, 2,286 patients were hospitalised in July, 272 in June, while 43 were infected in May, according to the DGHS.

OF DEMOS AND DEMANDS



PHOTO: COLLECTED

JU students block Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday morning.

ASSAULTING JU STUDENT

Four Ansar members sacked

JU CORRESPONDENT

Four Ansar members were sacked yesterday for assaulting a Jahangirnagar University (JU) student at National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar.

Nur Hossain (22), was assaulted on Monday for protesting against "irregularities" of Ansar members in charge of the memorial, said students.

The sacked Ansar members are Omar Faruk, Sarowar, Nazrul, and Romzan. Ansar and VDP office Dhaka District Commandant, Afzal Hossain, said, "The accused Ansar members have already been sacked. They have also been blacklisted, meaning they won't be able to work anywhere else in future."

"We will pay medical expenses of the injured student," he added. Acting Proctor of JU, SM Firoz-ul-Hasan said, "After the unfortunate incident, we spoke with police and memorial authorities and requested that they take appropriate action."

Meanwhile, JU students staged a human chain in the morning to protest against the assault. The event started at 11:30am, blocking the Dhaka-Aricha highway. After about half an hour, on assurance of Ashulia police and the proctor, the students left the road.

Nur Hossain is undergoing treatment at Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar for injuries to his head, mouth, backbone, hands, and legs, said neurologist Dr B Karim.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Medical technologists in front of DGHS in Dhaka yesterday.

Medical technologists postpone demo

Authorities assured them of publishing results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following assurance from high-ups, hundreds of medical technologists, who were demanding immediate publication of their viva results, postponed their demonstration yesterday.

On February 22, a selection board for appointing 1,200 medical technologists took viva voce of candidates who passed in the written exam.

The health ministry, however, postponed publication of results, as a newspaper reported of bribery centring the appointment. The ministry also formed a three-member committee to investigate the issue.

Since then, the final result for the recruitment remains pending. A section of technologists staged a sit-in in front of the headquarters of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), as part of their protest.

"We have been assured that we will get the viva result very soon. We have postponed our demonstration for the next two weeks," Uttam Kumar, chief coordinator of the protesters, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"If authorities don't publish results by that time, we will wage a tougher movement, which will include blocking the way to the health minister's

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Migrant workers at the expatriates' welfare ministry yesterday.

Migrant workers withdrew hunger strike

Expat welfare minister assures them of setting up RT-PCR lab at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After assurance from the authorities, the stranded Bangladeshis who works in the United Arab Emirates withdrew their fast unto death sit-in in front of the expatriates' welfare ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

As part of their month-long demonstration, they started the sit-in in the morning, demanding a RT-PCR lab at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) immediately.

Around 3pm, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad sat in a meeting with a delegation of the demonstrators.

"The minister has assured that he will inform us by tomorrow (today) morning that exactly from when we would be able to get RT-PCR test service at the airport. Based on his assurance, we have postponed our demonstration," said Md Salahuddin, a representative of the demonstrators.

He said, "We expect the minister will declare a logical deadline. Otherwise, we will take to the street again. Because, we have been suffering a lot for this."

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