



Every morning, this footpath in the capital's Kalabagan area gets turned into a makeshift kitchen market. As sellers sit down with their fish, poultry, and vegetables, pedestrians have a hard time crossing this spot right beside the busy Mirpur Road. This photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

GRAFT CASE AGAINST SK SINHA

Verdict rescheduled for Oct 21

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rescheduled -- for October 21 -- delivery of the verdict of a graft case filed over Tk 4 crore money laundering against former Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha and 10 others.

Judge (in-charge) Mohammed Ali Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka deferred the date as the judge concerned is on leave due to family matter, court sources said.

The court on September 14 set yesterday for delivery of the verdict.

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

Among the 11 accused, Shamim, Salahuddin, Swapan, Lutful, Shahjahan and Niranjan are now on bail, while Mahbulul is now behind bars.

Four other accused -- SK Sinha, Shafiuddin, Ranjit and Santri -- have been absconding since filing the graft case.

On December 8 that year, Investigation Officer Md Benjiur Ahmmed, also ACC Director, pressed charges against SK Sinha and 10 others in the case.

On August 13 last year, the court framed charges against them.

Sinha resigned on November 11, 2017, from abroad. He is now in the USA.

National health information system need of the hour

Say experts at UN conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pandemic has shed light on the need for having national health information systems, said speakers at the United Nations World Data Forum 2021 conference yesterday.

They were talking at a session titled "Data-driven Vaccination Strategy for a Covid-19 Free World" at the conference held in Bern, Switzerland.

"Such a system is not only needed for the pandemic but in general as well," said Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, adding that the system already in place needs to be fully utilised.

He said that new concerns, such as privacy and data security, must be taken into account too.

Agnes Binagwaho, vice-chancellor of University of Global Health Equity from Rwanda, said, "This is not by chance that we have successfully implemented the Covid-19 vaccine in Rwanda."

Rwandan authorities had district-wise data, and a list of those who needed to be vaccinated, like caregivers, community workers and people with underlying conditions, she said.

Anir Chowdhury, policy advisor of the ICT Division's a2i Programme, spoke about how data collected on patients during the pandemic is now being used.

"We had established a dedicated telehealth service for the Covid patients," he said, adding that they are now going back and finding out the rate of reinfection. "Covid-19 has taught us that we have to distinguish between statistics and data. All institutions must collect data."

Natalia Aquilino, a director of CIPPEC, a foundation in Argentina, emphasised the need to share and create a global pool of data.

Dr Meerjady Sabrina Flora, who leads the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research, said they are now using data to continue post-vaccination surveillance, since an amalgamation of several different kinds of vaccines had to be administered in Bangladesh.

Vietnam interested to start Dhaka-Hanoi flights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vietnam yesterday expressed its interest to launch direct flights between Hanoi and Dhaka.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Bangladesh Pham Viet Chien relayed this interest in a meeting with State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahubul Ali at the latter's office at the secretariat, said a press release.

"If direct communication is established by air, the relationship between the people of these two friendly countries will be further enhanced," Pham Viet Chien said.

Mahubul Ali said the two countries have many opportunities to work together for the development of the tourism industry and aviation sector.

The launch of direct flights between Bangladesh and Vietnam will boost trade and commerce between the two countries as well as connect people, he also said.

Man dies in Sirajganj road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A man died when he was hit by a truck on Bangabandhu Bridge road in Sirajganj yesterday.

The deceased is Md Mostab Ali (40), a sub-assistant engineer of Sirajganj District Relief and Rehabilitation Office (DRRO), said police.

Quoting eyewitnesses, Bangabandhu West Zone Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Mosaddek Ali said a Dhaka-bound truck hit Mostab while he was crossing the road around 10am.

He was rushed to Sirajganj General Hospital where doctors declared him dead, the OC said. Police detained the truck driver and seized the vehicle.

DRRO officer Abdur Rahim told The Daily Star that Mostab was an engineer of Ashrayan project, working in both Pabna and Sirajganj. He was going to Pabna for official work.

After completing legal procedures, Mostab's body will be sent to his ancestral home in Pabna.

US envoy hands over 25 lakh Pfizer doses

UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller has handed over 25 lakh doses of Pfizer vaccine to Bangladesh.

The vaccines build on earlier US Covid vaccine donations for a total of 1,15,00,000 doses.

Ambassador Miller and Kathryn Stevens, mission director of USAID, handed over the vaccines to Syed Mojibul Haq, additional secretary of the health ministry, and Prof Abul Bashir Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general at Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), during a ceremonial handover event at the capital's Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) headquarters yesterday.

"The United States is pleased to donate these additional 2.5 million [25 lakh] doses of life-saving Pfizer vaccine to Bangladesh and continue our support to the national vaccination campaign," said Ambassador Miller.

This delivery of Pfizer vaccines comes as part of the broader commitment by the United States to lead the global Covid-19 response by donating a billion doses of Pfizer vaccines around the world -- free of charge -- through 2022.

Pistol misfires inside Rangpur mayor's office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An accident was avoided inside Rangpur City Corporation mayor's office yesterday afternoon, when a licensed pistol belonging to newly-elected president of Rangpur Motor Malik Samity AKM Mozammel Haque fell on the floor and misfired.

Witnesses said at the time, Mayor Mostafizur Rahman Mostafa was in his office on the building's first floor when Mozammel came to visit. Mozammel later told reporters the pistol slipped out of his hand while he was handing it over to his bodyguard.

He filed a GD with Kotwali police, who are investigating the incident.

Confirming the incident, Mayor Mostafizur said there was no casualty.

NSU holds orientation programme



PHOTO: COURTESY

CITY DESK

North South University (NSU) organised a virtual orientation for newly enrolled students of Fall Semester 2021 on its campus on Monday, said a press release.

This time around, 1,700 students have got the opportunity to get admission in the graduate (honors) courses in 16 departments of the four schools of the university. Around 400 students have been awarded merit-based scholarships.

The virtual orientation programme was broadcast live on North South University's official Facebook page. All students were connected virtually, while guests were present physically on the campus, maintaining proper social distances and health-safety guidelines.

As chief guest, Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud sent a written speech on the occasion as he was not able to be present.

NSU Board of Trustees chairperson Azim Uddin Ahmed was present as special guest while icddr, Emeritus Scientist Dr Firdausi Qadri orientation speaker. MA Kashem, Benajir Ahmed and Rehana Rahman, members, Board of Trustees, NSU, were present as guests of honor.

NSU Vice-Chancellor Prof Atiqul Islam chaired the event.

Nationalise education

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sector aiming to improve quality of education as well," said Mohibul, according to a press release by the teachers council.

At another programme, Mahbulul-Alam Hanif, joint general secretary of Awami League, urged teachers to abstain from "ill politics".

The Shikkhak Parishad arranged the programme titled "Dignity of teachers in the eyes Bangabandhu" at the Institution of Engineers, marking World Teachers' Day.

The organisation's general secretary Shahjahan Alam Shaju presented the keynote paper at the programme, presided over by educationist professor Sajedul Islam.

Meanwhile, a group of non-government teachers formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club, also demanding the nationalisation of MPO included schools by November 30.

The programme was held under the banner of "MPO Bhukto Shikkhak-Karmachary Jatiyakan Prattashi Mahajote."

Govt won't

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construction Aminbazar Bridge-2 (8-lane) in Savar.

There is no doubt regarding a neutral election, said the minister.

About the construction work of the Aminbazar Bridge, the minister said about 25 percent work of the bridge on Turag river -- at a cost of Tk 210 crore -- has been completed.

Construction of the bridge is expected to be completed by February 2023, added Quader.

120 buses

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Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam, who also attended the meeting, said on the proposed route, 56 bus bays and roadside shades will be built for the passengers.

The route's bus drivers and conductors will wear a special uniform, Atiqul said, adding that by October 20, colour and design of the buses will be finalised.

Advertisement for TIME EXTENSION OF IFT FOR ELECTRONIC MOBILE RECHARGE SERVICE, Save the Children.

Advertisement for নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি (Job Vacancies) from বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় গৌপালগঞ্জ.

Large advertisement for বায়রা লাইফ ইনসিওরেন্স কোম্পানী লিঃ (Baira Life Insurance Company Ltd.) listing various insurance products and services.

Large advertisement for VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT by E-Zone HRM Limited, listing various job openings.