

PARLIAMENT PANORAMA

President to deliver speech on Nov 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President M Abdul Hamid will deliver a memorial speech during a special discussion of Jatiya Sangsad on November 24, marking the golden jubilee of the country's independence.

A special discussion will be held in parliament on November 24 and 25... President Abdul Hamid has given his consent to deliver a memorial speech at 3:00pm on November 24 at the invitation of the House, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury told parliament yesterday.

Shirin Sharmin adjourned the 15th session of parliament till November 24.

House building bill passed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The House Building Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2021 was passed at Jatiya Sangsad yesterday to increase the authorised and paid-up capitals, and expand its areas of providing services.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal placed the bill, which was passed by voice vote.

The original law was promulgated in 1973 through issuing an order. With the amendment, the authorised capital of the Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHFBC) will be Tk 1,000 crore while the paid-up capital Tk 500 crore.

Registration a must for tour operators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed a bill to make it mandatory for tour operators and guides to get registered.

The bill titled "Bangladesh Tour Operators and Tour Guides (Registration and Operation) Bill, 2021" was prepared aiming to bring the tour operators under a legal framework for ensuring the best services and thus give a boost to the tourism sector.

State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahubb Ali placed the bill, which was passed by voice vote.

No company will be allowed to operate tours without registration. If anyone does, they would be tried under Code of Criminal Procedure, the bill says.

MP Harun protests summoning of DU Prof Tasneem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid yesterday in the parliament protested the summoning of Prof Tasneem Siddiqui of Dhaka University before a parliamentary standing committee for publishing an article.

"A professor has never been summoned before a parliamentary watchdog for publishing an article..." Harun told the House.

On February 8, an interview of Prof Tasneem Siddiqui on remittance flow was published in Prothom Alo. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Finance summoned her to explain her comment on remittance income and she complied with the order on September 23.

Zuckerberg served

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senior journalist, Dr SM Masum Billaha, a teacher of the law department at Jagannath University, Advocate George Chowdhury, an SC lawyer, and Victor Ray, a leader of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council.

BTRC chairman, secretary at the ministry of posts, telecommunication and information technology, senior secretary at the public security division of the home ministry, and director-general of the digital security agency, and Zuckerberg have been asked to comply with the notice.

The four also urged the respondents to take necessary steps to regulate Facebook's activities in Bangladesh without any delay and warned to take appropriate legal action against them otherwise.

Still committed to truthful, objective journalism

Say editor, senior journos of Prothom Alo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of its 23rd anniversary, Bangla daily Prothom Alo yesterday reiterated its commitment of serving its readers with truthful and objective journalism.

The newspaper's editor and senior journalists made the commitment while taking part in a dialogue session with the readers.

The event was arranged as part of the weeklong exhibition "Aloy Adhare", highlighting the newspaper's achievements and activities at the capital's National Museum.

In the dialogue, Prothom Alo Editor Matur Rahman said a newspaper's ability to work independently is a necessity for flourishing democracy.

He said a united movement is required to create such an environment, as it cannot be done by the newspaper alone.

Readers from different parts of the country took part in the dialogue both physically and virtually.

Once there were rivers

Documentary on rivers premieres

CITY DESK

As part of Goethe-Institut Bangladesh's 60 years celebration, documentary film "Once There Were Rivers", focusing on environmental challenges and sustainable futures, was premiered at Sonargaon in Narayanganj yesterday.

The screening was organised by zero-waste fashion boutiques Broqué, SICA UPCYCLING DESIGN, and Goethe-Institute.

Created and directed by Mahenaz Chowdhury -- founder and designer of Broqué, the film captures the lives of the jamdani weaving community and their connection to the river Shitalakhya.

It also addresses the deteriorating condition of rivers in climate-vulnerable Bangladesh.

No fault of their own

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Residents also complained that they were not given any notice before the lines were cut.

An official of Titas told The Daily Star that after cutting the lines, Wahiduzzaman, managing director of Japan Garden City, paid the bills yesterday.

However, Titas said residents of the apartment would not get the connections back till Sunday, as Friday and Saturday are weekly holidays.

Contacted, Titas Dhanmondi Zone Deputy General Manager (DGM, Revenue) Tofazzal Hossain told The Daily Star, "We were supposed to get about Tk 60 lakh, including penalty, from the managing director of Japan Garden City, Wahiduzzaman. After cutting the lines, we have received the payment."

"We already informed the marketing department that we have received the dues. They will take the next step," he said.

However, Titas Dhanmondi Zone DGM (Marketing) Najibul Haque said, "We are yet to receive dues from many residents of Japan Garden City. This situation will be resolved through the regular process." Asked when everything will be resolved, he said, "That cannot be said before Sunday. We will discuss the issues on the day."

Love is there, not resources

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Although the number of patients keep increasing by the day, the number of doctors haven't seen a corresponding rise. In fact, the hospital actually has fewer doctors than it should.

Moreover, the main building of the hospital, built during the Pakistan period, is also in dwindling conditions, and since the beginning of November, the digital X-ray machines have become useless.

Upon arriving at the Central Veterinary Hospital around 11am on Monday, this correspondent noticed that pet parents from different parts of the capital had gathered with their dogs, cats, rabbits and birds at the premises. Many also came in with cows, calves, sheep and goats.

However, due to the lack of experienced doctors, visitors have to wait for a frustratingly long time, they told this correspondent.

Nazmul Alam, a Bashabo resident, had brought his pet dog to the hospital. He complained, "Even though this is a big facility, there is a massive shortage of doctors, because of which we have to wait for hours."

Shuprova Tanin, a cat-owner from Elephant Road, voiced the same concern and frustration. "The doctors here are good but they're hard to reach. Somehow, they're always busy with another patient." She added that this is why she has started seeing a doctor at a separate institution, only

visiting this hospital since her regular vet was out of the country.

The truth in her words was reinforced when this correspondent talked to Dr Md Asaduzzaman, veterinary surgeon of the hospital.

He said, "We get 150 to 200 cases every day. We try to treat them with the expertise of a few doctors, but it's time that we got more."

According to Central Veterinary Hospital sources, there are six posts of BCS cadre and eight more posts in non-cadre. In both cases, the number of doctors is two. Apart from this, there are three more doctors on deputation and there are 10 vacancies open.

Not only doctors, but there's also a technicians-crisis at the hospital, as only seven out of the required 14 technicians' posts are currently occupied.

In addition to patients who come to the hospital, a small number of doctors also take VIP calls. They treat animals kept at Bangabhaban, Ganobhaban, and more. Apart from this, the doctors are also in charge of Rajarbagh Police Horse Unit and RAB's Dog Squad Unit.

Along with this human resource crisis, the hospital's building is another cause for concern. A hospital worker, speaking on terms of anonymity, said, "As the building was constructed during the Pakistani period, it's now in its last stretch. During monsoon, rain seeps through the rooftop because of

the cracks that have developed."

About three years ago, an application was sent to the Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Resources for a project to build a fully-fledged veterinary hospital, sources said. However, that project was cancelled, although there seems to be another new project brewing in the planning books.

WHAT AUTHORITIES SAY

Dr Saiful Ahad Sardar, the director of the Central Veterinary Hospital, admitted to a lot of the complaints.

"We are running a hospital with half the required staff," he said, adding that the doctors are working at an inhumane capacity.

"We've reported the matter to the Department of Animal Resources. They have assured us they'll fill up the vacancies. However, progress is yet to be seen," he added.

On the broken X-ray machines, he said, "As this is a government institution, we cannot just change it if we want to, since it will cost over Tk 25,000 thousand to fix it. This is why we have to call tender, after which, we'll have to wait another 20 to 21 days to finally fix the machines," he added.

He also confirmed plans for a new building construction project, saying, "We are undertaking a new project to build a veterinary hospital encompassing the upazila level," he added.

AUW offers scholarship for Hindu students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In order to remember the spate of communal violence that took place across the country during Durga Puja this year, Asian University for Women is initiating a scholarship programme for Hindu female students.

According to a press statement sent by the university's founder and trustee, Kamal Ahmad, AUW will award scholarships to five extraordinary women from the Hindu community in Bangladesh at the beginning of every Durga Puja, as a tangible commitment to empowering the community.

The statement also called for concrete actions against such violence. "We must do everything within our powers to overcome the sources that wound us time and again and leave us dehumanised," it added.

The university is also introducing comparative religion courses and weekly interfaith services, as a way of deepening a sense of spirituality in the community.

Luring with deals

FROM PAGE 3

Despite the extent of his crimes, the police have only found a single case filed against him, with Rampura Police Station under the Digital Security Act.

According to the complaint, travel agency owner Golam Mahfuz Chowdhury on August 7 received a message on WhatsApp from a foreign number.

The message reads, "A good news for Bangladeshi expatriates of UAE. A special flight is arranged for Covid-19 and its tickets can only be arranged from Dubai. Three category visa holders -- Investor, Partner, Business -- can avail the tickets."

Getting the message, Golam communicated with the WhatsApp number. The user replied that his name was Borhan, and that he was from Chattogram but now he lives in Dubai.

Borhan suggested Golam deposit around Tk 1 lakh to his wife's bank account number. But as soon as this was done, Borhan was nowhere to be found, the complaint reads.

Investigators claimed that Borhan has around Tk 30 to 40 lakh in different bank accounts.

ADC Sharker said Borhan once used to live in Dubai. However, he is now involved in fraudulent activities in the country, he said.

"We are now looking for his wife Murni, who went into hiding soon after his arrest," he said.

ADC Junaed said they are also suspecting that Borhan may have some associates in Dubai or Qatar country who provided him the SIM cards.

Dengue fear still

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Of the 150, 62 were males, 42 females and 46 children, he said.

In the last year, only 17 people had tested positive for dengue in Chattogram.

Prof Sujat Paul, former head of medicine at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said construction sites in Chattogram, where water stays accumulated for a long time, and late onset of the dry season are to blame for the current situation.

A group of researchers from Chittagong University selected 57 spots from 99 city areas and started conducting a survey from July 5, said sources in Chattogram City Corporation (CCC). They submitted the survey report to CCC in August, where they said they found Aedes mosquito larvae at 15 spots.

CCC had already started a programme to destroy mosquito breeding grounds in July, said Morshedul Alam Chowdhury, deputy conservation officer of CCC.

Meanwhile, locals alleged that the CCC programme conducted every year is just for eyewash.

"We haven't seen any CCC worker come to spray insecticides in the last six months," said Sheikh Md Ledu, a resident of Rahattar Pool area.

Contacted, Prof Aniruddha Ghosh, head of medicine at CMCH, said the three to four days after recovering from fever is vital for dengue patients. Many patients think once the fever is gone, they are fully healed, but that is not the case.

No antibiotic should be taken without the advice of a doctor, he said.

Antibiotics only

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everything will be controlled as per law," the minister added.

With the theme "Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance", the week is being celebrated from November 18-24 globally.

The minister also said the children will get vaccines at their schools soon.

After the Covid-19 vaccination programme was launched last month, only schoolchildren in Dhaka have been receiving vaccines at specific schools or vaccination centres.

This has been causing hassles in the registrations and consequent vaccination procedures for the students, according to the minister.

Under the vaccination campaign, children aged between 12 and 17 have been receiving Pfizer vaccines.

The campaign will expand to other districts of the country soon, said the minister.

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Toilets

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In the case of improved toilets, it increased to 76 percent from 40 percent during the same period.

Besides, there is discrimination in sanitation coverage based on people's earnings -- 96 percent of the rich and only 46 percent of the poor have access to safe toilets.

The problem is the WASH sector programmes are mainly based on different projects. But without integrating it in government's routine works, it is tough to achieve the sustainable development goal," Zobair Hasan said.

"We need a holistic approach; households, schools, slums -- everything has to be included in the plan properly," he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Department of the Public Health Engineering Bagerhat District, Bagerhat e-mail: ee.bagerhat@dphe.gov.bd টেলিফোন নং-০২৪ ৭৭৭৫১৫৫৪ Date: 18/11/2021. e-GP Tender Notice No-04 (2021-2022) 1 Ministry/Division Local Government Division 2 Implementing Agency Department of Public Health Engineering 3 Project/Program Name Safe Water Supply Throughout the Country Project (PSWSC) 4 e-Tender IDs Description of works 5 629263, 629264 Piped Water Supply Scheme With 02(Two) Nos. Test Tubewell, 02 (Two) Nos. production Well, 01 (One) No. Pump House, 01 (One) No RCC Over Head Water Tank, Mechanical Works, Electrical Works, Pipe Line/Water Distribution Networks etc at Chitolmari Upazila & Bagerhat Sadar Upazila in Bagerhat District under Safe Water Supply Throughout the Country Project. FY-2021-22. 6 This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) (Jayanta Mallick) Executive Engineer, DPHE, Bagerhat District, Bagerhat GD-2103

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Chief Commercial Manager (East) Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram. No- 54.01.1500.107.07.017.21 Date: 18/11/2021 e-Tender Notice e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http:// www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Chief Commercial Manager (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram, for the procurement of the following works: SI No Tender ID Name of works Last selling date & time Closing date & time Opening date & time 01 626955 Comprehensive Cleaning/ Sanitization work in the railway stations of Chashara, Fatullah, Gandaria, Cantonment, Banani, Tongi & Pubail. 08-12-2021 at 11.00 08-12-2021 at 12.00 08-12-2021 at-12.00 02 627518 Comprehensive Cleaning/ Sanitization work in the railway stations of Arikhola, Ghoroshal Flag, Ghoroshal, Jinardi, Narsingdi, Amirganj, Khana Bari & Methikanda. 08-12-2021 at-10.00 08-12-2021 at 11.00 08-12-2021 at- 11.00 03 627544 Comprehensive Cleaning/ Sanitization work in the railway stations of Dalautkandi, Asugonj, Talsohor, Brahmanbaria, Pagachong, Ajompur, Mukundupur & Haraspur. 08-12-2021 at-12.00 08-12-2021 at- 13.00 08-12-2021 at- 13.00 1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP portal. 2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the e-GP System portal (http:// www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. 3. For further information, please contact e-GP helpdesk (Helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). (Signed) Mohammed Nazmul Islam Chief Commercial Manager (East) Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram TnT: 0312863191 e-mail: cme@railway.gov.bd S(21) (311) GD-2105

বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি ৫৩, মহাশালী বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২২২। www.bia.gov.bd 'এসোসিয়েটশীপ অব বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি' (এবিআইএ) অক্টোবর-২০২১ পর্বে ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বীমা শিল্পের প্রসার, দক্ষ জনশক্তি সৃষ্টি এবং এ পেশায় নিয়োজিত জনবল যুগের চাহিদা মোতাবেক পেশাগত জ্ঞান সমৃদ্ধ করে গড়ে তুলতে 'এসোসিয়েটশীপ অব বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি' (এবিআইএ) কোর্সটি অতীত করতৃপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে আসছে। বীমা শিল্পের ক্রমবর্ধমান অগ্রযাত্রায় অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য প্রতি বছরের ন্যায় এবারও বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমির এবিআইএ অক্টোবর-২০২১ পর্বে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আশ্রয়ী সকলকে আহ্বান জানানো হচ্ছে। এবিআইএ ভর্তি ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদানের সময়সূচী নিম্নরূপ: বিস্ময় সমসীমা ভর্তি ও রেজিস্ট্রেশন ২১ নভেম্বর থেকে ১৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ পর্যন্ত ৬০০/- টাকা কাউন্সিলিং ফি প্রদান ২১ নভেম্বর থেকে ১৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ পর্যন্ত প্রতি বিষয় ৪৫০/- টাকা পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান ২১ নভেম্বর থেকে ১৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ পর্যন্ত প্রতি বিষয় ৫০০/- টাকা কাউন্সিলিং ফ্রান্স ২৭ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ হতে শুরু গ্রন্থপত্র সংগ্রহ ২০ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ থেকে ১৬ জানুয়ারি ২০২২ পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী ও বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য: ০৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২ হতে শুরু পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী ও বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য: \* এবিআইএ ভর্তি ও পরীক্ষার নিয়মাবলি একাডেমির ওয়েবসাইটে (www.bia.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে। \* রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি, পরীক্ষার ফি, কাউন্সিলিং ফি, মেম্বারশীপ ফি Dutch Bangla Mobile Bank (A/C No: 1973) রকেট এর মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে। \*\* ভর্তির জন্য যোগ্যতা: ন্যূনতম স্নাতক ডিগ্রি। যোগ্যতাপূর্ণ ও বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য: ১। জনাব এ.এইচ.এম. নাজমুল শাহাদাত মিঞা, ফ্যাকাশি মেম্বার (গ্রেড-১), বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি। ফোন: ৯৮৯৯২৯২-৩ ওয়: ১০৬ মোবাইল: ০১৯২৫-৮৭৬৯৭৬ ২। জনাব মোঃ আবুল কালাম আজাদ, এবিআইএ, ফ্যাকাশি মেম্বার (গ্রেড-২), বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি। ফোন: ৯৮৯৯২৯২-৩ ওয়: ১০৭ মোবাইল: ০১৯২৫-৬৯২১৯৩ ৩। মিজ অর্ণবা সাহা, এবিআইএ, ইন্সট্রাক্টর, বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি। ফোন: ৯৮৯৯২৯২-৩ ওয়: ১১২ মোবাইল: ০১৯৩৭-৬৯২১৯৩ ৪। জনাব মোঃ মনিরুজ্জামান, সহকারী কোর্স কো-অর্ডিনেটর, বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি। মোবাইল: ০১৭১১-৯৬৩১৫৫ ফ্যাক্স: ০৮৮০-২-৯৮৮২০৭১ E-mail: bangladeshinsuranceacademy@gmail.com GD-2102