



A group of people in the capital's Lalbagh area have found a unique way of making money off of discarded plastic. Collected from the streets, the plastic is put inside a bag and then burned, with its molten remains sold as raw materials. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Dengue cases drop to single digit

7 patients hospitalised in 24hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only seven dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, the first time after around six months, when the number of infections dropped to a single digit.

All of the infected are from the capital, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), which publishes the numbers daily.

With the new cases, the total number of dengue rose to 28,330, with a total of 1,108 diagnosed this month. Of the total, 4,759 are from outside Dhaka.

At least 3,567 dengue patients were diagnosed in November, 5,458 in October, 7,841 were diagnosed in September, 7,698 were diagnosed in August, 2,286 patients were hospitalised in July, 272 in June while 43 were infected in May.

The rest are from January to April, according to the DGHS.

A total of 104 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year, all of whom died in July, August, September, October, November and December.

Twelve people died in July, 34 died in August, 23 in September, 22 in October, seven in November and six in December.

Though most of the patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 102 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 38 outside the capital, the Directorate General of Health Services data shows.

Youth held over rape of schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a youth in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila yesterday in a case filed over rape of a schoolgirl. The arrestee is Md Anik (19) of the upazila.

A team of Rab-12 led by company commander Abdullah Al Mamun arrested him from a relatives' house in the upazila's Fatehpur union.

Police said Anik raped an 11-year-old girl, after finding her alone at her house on Sunday evening. He fled when locals rushed to the spot, hearing the girl's screams.

The girl's mother filed the case with police the next day and submitted a written complaint to the local Rab camp.

After arrest, Anik, during preliminary interrogation, admitted to his crime, said Abdullah Al Mamun.

'Putting environment at risk for development'

Ctg residents concerned over leasing out part of Patenga beach area

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Residents of Chattogram city have expressed their grave concern after Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) took the initiative to lease out a part of Patenga sea beach.

According to CDA, it no longer has the capacity and sufficient funds to maintain the particular beach area, which is why they decided to lease it out.

Premier University Vice Chancellor Prof Anupam Sen, an eminent citizen, said, "The natural view of the beach will be destroyed if any concrete structure is established there. No one should destroy the environment of Patenga beach in the name of development."

"Before calling for any tender, CDA should disclose the details of leasing the beach to the public," he said.

"CDA's decision to lease the beach to a private company is illogical and unexpected," said Akhtar Kabir Chowdhury, secretary of civil-society platform Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan).

"Almost all public entertainment spots in Chattogram went to private companies. Where will common people go, if the only

open place, Patenga beach, also goes to a private company?" asked Zahidul Islam, a resident of the port city.

"Concerning lease of the beach and adjoining areas, authorities have to consider public interest and ecological aspects first," said Mujib Rahman, associate professor of English at Chittagong College.

Architect Ashiq Imran, a board member of CDA, said, "We are going to lease the area that runs for five kilometres along the beach's ring road, as we have no extra funds and capacity to manage the area's costs."

"Around eight months ago, we got primary approval to lease the land from the housing and public works ministry," he said.

An amusement park will be built on the proposed land, Ashiq said.

Md Mostafa Monwar, associate professor of marine sciences at Chittagong University, said authorities might not be able to manage the garbage that will be produced by visitors at the proposed establishments, which will significantly pollute the beach.

Despite several attempts, this correspondent could not reach Mohammad Mominur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Chattogram.

Freedom fighter Niaz Mahmood Khan no more

CITY DESK

Freedom Fighter Niaz Mahmood Khan (Bobby) passed away on Wednesday evening.



He was 66. After a sudden cardiac arrest, Niaz breathed his last at the capital's Ibn Sina Hospital.

Barely 16 years old when he joined the war effort, Niaz was known as the youngest member of the NAP-Communist Party-Students Union Special Guerrilla Forces.

Niaz Mahmood was also a survivor of the Battle of Betiara on November 11, 1971.

The valiant freedom fighter left behind his only son, two brothers, a sister and a host of nephews and nieces to mourn his death.

Everyone is asked to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Hurrah for Sherpur's bird lovers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Established in 2018, the Sherpur Bird Conservation Society (SBCS), a collective of 17 volunteers, has been working towards monitoring local and migratory birds in different areas of the district.

With the goal of putting Sherpur on the map for its abundance of birds, the organisation's journey initially started off with just five members.

"With a view of creating awareness among locals, especially those who earn their bread through bird hunting, we set off on our mission three years ago," said Shahiduzzaman, its founding member. Shahid is also a librarian at the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sherpur.

Approximately 236 bird varieties have been identified in the last three years in Sherpur, mainly at the Brahmaputra shoals of Char Pankhimari in Sherpur Sadar; Bogadubi, Gazni and Rangtia in Jhenaigati; Kurcha in Nakla and Madhutila in Nalitabari.

"So far, we've rescued 200



It is not very well-known across the country just how many birds inhabit Sherpur district, something that Sherpur Bird Conservation Society is trying to overcome.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

birds from catchers and set them free in the forest with the help of officials. We've also rescued some injured birds including kite, fairy kite, owl, falcon, teal, vulture, water hen and Indian spotted eagle," said Devdas Chanda Babu, a member.

"Locals are now more sympathetic towards the wild birds," said Sujoy Malakar, president of SBCS. They (locals)

told us that the pandemic was a blessing for the birds, as the catchers were away from the forests, allowing the number of bird population to increase," added Sujoy.

The Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division in Sherpur also conducts drives every week at different spots where birds visit in numbers, said Md Abdul Kader, assistant professor

of Sherpur Govt College, and a founding member of the society. This also helps in protecting the district's avian population.

Due to the grave shortage of large trees, many birds have lost their shelter over the years, which has affected their breeding. To protect these birds, indiscriminate cutting down of forests must be stopped, members of the conservation society suggested.

ZAINUL ABEDIN'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY Exhibition celebrating Shilpacharya's legacy starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

A three-day painting exhibition was inaugurated at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala auditorium in Mymensingh yesterday, marking the 107th birth anniversary of the maestro and golden jubilee of the country's victory.

Mymensingh Bibhagio Charushilpi Parshad (MBCSP) organised the exhibition, where around 70 artists from Mymensingh, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram, Jashore, Khulna and Narail exhibited their works.

Tapon Kumar Sarker, associate professor of fine arts at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU), and artist Goutam Kumar Devnath, secretary of MBCSP, inaugurated the event.

Prof AKM Zakir Hossain, students affairs adviser of Bangladesh Agricultural University

and syndicate member of JKNIU, was chief guest, while Nagarbari Barman, associate professor of fine arts at JKNIU; Mukul Dutta, deputy keeper of the gallery; and Mohammad Rajon, president of MBCSP, spoke at the inaugural session.

The gallery has also arranged day-long programmes on the day of his birthday on Wednesday, including a discussion, painting competition and cultural programme.

Zainul Abedin was born in Mymensingh on December 29, 1914. He studied at Mrittunjay School in Mymensingh and later at Government School of Art in Kolkata, from where he graduated with a first-class degree in 1938. His sketches on the Bengal famine in the 1940s and "Monpura", a painting portraying the devastation of the 1970's Bhola cyclone, are considered to be his magnum opuses.

Hakaluki

FROM PAGE 3

"On December 1, I lodged a written complaint with Barlekha Police Station against Parvez Ahmed, Riaz Ali, Nazim Uddin, Gafur Uddin, Hannan Mia, Joyanal Ahmed, Malek Mia, Suruj Ali, and Moshaid Ali of Barni union under Barlekha upazila in connection with the deforestation," the official said.

According to the complaint, trees worth about Tk four to five lakhs have been uprooted in the incident. Meanwhile, one of the accused, Parvez Ahmed acknowledged and apologised for the incident, promising that the act won't be repeated, said officials.

Badrul Huda, assistant director of DoE in Moulvibazar, told this correspondent that during an inspection in last June, it was found that the accused had cut down about 20,000 trees.

These include hijol and karach trees, which were growing on 12 acres of khas land on the south-eastern side of Malam Beel.

This was done with the purpose of constructing the Malam Beel dam and making the land suitable for cultivation, he added.

About recruiting more guards, he said they are working on it.

Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon's Sylhet chapter, said, "We wonder what the government officials are doing there. There are allegations that some unscrupulous officials are involved in illegal deforestation."

"The government should look into the issue seriously and take stern action against the corrupt officials. The local administration should immediately conduct an eviction drive and clear the ECA area," he added.

Making anti-smoking

FROM PAGE 3

among common people regarding the adverse effects of smoking. The exhibition has been organised through crowdfunding and patronised by Dhaka North City Corporation.

This year, the exhibition centres the theme "It Is Not Too Late to Save The World. Stop Plastic and Chemical Pollution", marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence.

"A tree is felled every second to prepare only 30 cigarette sticks, and a cigarette stick carries at least 69 chemicals, which have the potential to cause cancer. Our goal is to make people aware of these facts," said Saiful Islam Bijoy, divisional coordinator (Dhaka) of BD Clean.

The exhibition started on December 17. It is open every day from 11:00am to 8:00pm and will continue till December 31.

BUILDING & LAND SALE

(Suitable for Factory/Hospital/University)

Two Buildings (each 6 Storied@ 90,000sqft) total 1,80,000sqft, Land 5.50 bigha with Electricity/ Gas/ Water Facility. Both Buildings Accord Approved with Full Compliance. Presently Garments Factory running at Dhaka Road, Vogra before Gazipur Chowrasta. Contact: 01711-525563, Email: dilan@capital-bd.com



ইস্টার্ন লুব্রিকেন্টস ব্লেণ্ডার্স লিমিটেড

(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশনের একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)

EASTERN LUBRICANTS BLENDERS LTD.

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION TO THE HON'BLE SHAREHOLDERS

We are pleased to inform you that the 264th Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company held on 23rd December 2021 at 4.00 p.m. and the decisions of the meeting are as follows:

A. DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND:	
1. 53rd AGM Date	: 12-03-2022 (Saturday)
Time	: 11.00 a.m.
Venue	: Digital Platform
2. Recommendation of Dividend	: Board recommended Cash Dividend (140%) @Tk. 14.00 per Share of Tk. 10.00 each & Stock Dividend (20% i.e. 5:1), 01(one) Share for every 05(Five) Share for the financial year 2020-2021.
3. Record Date	: 18-01-2022. The Shareholders whose names will appear in the CDBL depository register and share register of the Company on the record date will be eligible to attend the AGM and receive the Dividend.

4. Disclosures with regards to Recommendation of Dividend			
*	Bonus shares has been recommended for utilizing the retained earnings of the Company as Capital for ongoing operations, i.e. working capital;		
*	Dividend has been recommended out of accumulated profit;		
*	Dividend has not been recommended from capital reserve or revaluation reserve or any unrealized gain or out of profit earned prior to incorporation of the Company or through reducing paid up capital or through doing anything so that the post-dividend retained earnings become negative or a debit balance.		

Financial Performances are as follow:			
	Particulars	June 30, 2021 (Amount in BDT)	June 30, 2020 (Amount in BDT)
1.	Earning per share (EPS)	: Tk. 52.18	Tk. 5.43
2.	Net Asset Value per share (NAV)	: Tk. 227.63	Tk. 178.45
3.	Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFFPS)	: Tk. 30.91	Tk. 92.63

The Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Company will be sent to you on due course.

B. BUSINESS CONTRACT:
It is notified to respected shareholders that the Board of Directors of the Company in its 264th meeting held on 23.12.2021, has approved a draft of 'Strategic Business Agreement' between Eastern Lubricants Blenders Limited (ELBL) and KB Petrochemicals Limited (KBPL), a joint venture company of Sena Kalyan Sangstha (SKS) and KB Petrochemicals Industries, aimed at concluding a business agreement to determine the charges for toll blending. If this business is implemented, the yearly blending of ELBL may increase by an additional 553500 liters (Approx.) and gross profit in blending income may increase an additional amount of Taka 83,65,250 (Approx.) yearly.

The Shareholders are requested to update their mailing address and Bank name, Account No., Branch name, Routing Number along with 12 Digit TIN (Taxpayer's Identification Number) in their respective BO/Folio Account before the record date.

Date: 23rd December 2021
GD-2385

By order of the Board
(Ali Absar)
Company Secretary

Land Sale! Land Sale!
16 Bigha Land for Sale (surrounded by RCC boundary wall), on Dhaka Aricha High Way Road. Opposite Side of Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Mouza: Krishnapura, Land Location: Dhamrai, Dhaka. Suitable place for any kind of Factory. Please Contact Sunday To Friday From 11 AM To 04 PM.
Call: 01730303633, 01716367041 D-187

Office Rent
Modern office about 2000sq.ft on first floor of 2-storied building in Dhanmondi available immediately.
Contact # 017 265 02 473 D-188

RENT @ UTTARA (PREFER FOREIGNER)
4 storied Full building Total 9000 Sft. (Sector-6, Road-5) with 24 hours Security Guard & under CCTV surveillance. Please Cont: 01711-525563, email: dilan@capital-bd.com

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)

Vacancy Announcement (Full-time positions)

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), one of the leading private universities in the country, invites applications for the following positions:

- School of Environment and Life sciences**
Department of Environmental Science and Management
 - Program Manager
- Office of the Pro-Vice Chancellor**
 - Senior Officer
- Department of Finance and Accounts**
 - Accounts Officer

For details and to download the Application Form, please visit <http://www.iub.edu.bd/jobs>; fill it in and email it to: hrdept@iub.edu.bd by January 7, 2022
Only online Application Forms will be acceptable

Invitation to submit proposals for two (2) Request for Proposals (RFPs) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh

RFP No. LRPS-9172505: Provide support for Storytelling Training (art and crafts) for Bangladeshi and Rohingya refugee youth to build social cohesion.

RFP No. LRPS-9172506: Provide support for Storytelling Training (digital content) for Bangladeshi and Rohingya refugee youth to build social cohesion.

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong track record and professional credibility of providing the above required services under one contract. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to "supplybangladesh@unicef.org"

The deadline to submit proposal is **Monday, 10 January 2022; Time: 11:00 Hrs.**

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of solicitation process.

www.unicef.org.bd

unicef for every child