

DIARRHOEA CASES

57 admitted to icddr,b every hour in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of diarrhoea patients have continued to rise at the International Center for Diarrheal Disease (icddr,b).

As many as four diarrhoea patients have been admitted in every five minutes in the past 13 hours till 1:00pm yesterday, according to the icddr,b data.

As many as 1,379 diarrhoea patients were admitted to icddr,b in 24 hours (till 12:00am yesterday). That means, 57 patients on average were admitted to icddr,b every hour.

Meanwhile, health officials said the number of patients is not as high in other hospitals as icddr,b.

“In March, about 170,237 diarrhoea patients were admitted to hospitals across the country,” said Dr Nazmul Islam, director of the Center for Disease Control at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), yesterday.

“This number was 184,462 during the same month last year. So, the number’s as usual,” he added.

During the first three months this year, a total of 4,61,611 diarrhoea patients were admitted to the hospitals countrywide.

The number was 4,97,331 for the same time period last year, according to DGHS data.

Dhaka had the highest 103,321 diarrhoea patients from January to March while Barishal had the lowest – 11,703 patients.



This photojournalist met Saleha Begum and her four children at icddr,b on Monday. The entire family was suffering from diarrhoea and receiving treatment at the facility. Yesterday, after being relieved from their peril, the family returned home in Mirpur’s Kazipara in an auto-rickshaw in the afternoon. This photo was taken in front of the centre’s gate in Mohakhali.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DU entry exams likely from June 3  
Proposes deans’ committee

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Deans’ Committee of Dhaka University yesterday recommended holding honour’s admission test for the academic session 2021-2022 from June 3.

The minimum eligibility for applying for the admission test has been lowered. The date was decided at a meeting with DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman in the chair.

The final decision in this regard will be taken at a meeting of the General Admission Committee today, said Pro-VC (academic) Prof ASM Maksud Kamal.

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MJF lauds the govt for placing anti-discrimination bill in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday congratulated the government for placing the much anticipated anti-discrimination bill in the Jatiya Sangsad, which aims to ensure dignity and equal rights to every citizen of the country.

In a statement, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said, “We are very hopeful with the draft copy of the anti-discrimination law being placed in the Jatiya Sangsad.”

“The law will be a powerful tool to ensure marginalised people’s rights and uphold their dignity.”

The draft law has been prepared in light of Articles 27, 28 and 29 of the country’s constitution.

Law Minister Anisul Huq placed the “Anti-Discrimination Bill 2022” before the national parliament on Tuesday.

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PRAYER

TIMING

APRIL 7

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-28	12-45	4-45	6-21	7-45
JAMAAT 4-38	1-15	5-00	6-31	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
5	7		6:21
6	8	4:22	6:21
7	9	4:21	6:21

Borrowing money to get easier

Cabinet approves act in principle that allows moveable properties as collateral for loans



From now on, moveable properties could also be produced as collateral. Even private cars can be mortgaged for loans. The bank will provide loans after examining the model number, value, loan tenure and its depreciation value.

Khandker Anwarul Islam  
Cabinet Secretary

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

A borrower will no longer need to depend on immovable properties to get a bank loan, with the government moving to ease the lending system by allowing moveable properties – such as savings certificates, fixed deposits, copyrights or even agricultural production – to be used as collateral too.

Financial Institutions Division (FID) presented the Secured Transaction (Moveable Property) Act, 2022 with these provisions at a cabinet meeting held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who chaired the meeting, approved the act in principle.

“It will increase credit flow in the market and reduce conflict between borrowers and lenders regarding collateral,” said Prof Md Main Uddin, chair of the banking and insurance department at Dhaka University.

“The conflicts can be resolved through this act. However, banks need to increase their inspection to prevent loan forgery and defaults,” he added.

Executive Director of Policy Research Institute Ahsan H Mansur said, “It will turn out to be a good move if insurance is added to mitigate risks.”

Later in a briefing, cabinet secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam said, “From now on, moveable properties could also be produced as collateral.”

“Even private cars can be mortgaged for loans. The bank will provide loans after examining the model number, value, loan tenure and its depreciation value,” said the cabinet secretary.

“The cabinet has discussed the matter at length,” he added.

Pointing out the act’s purpose, Anwarul said many small and medium entrepreneurs cannot show fixed properties as collateral. They will be able to avail loans by mortgaging any kind of moveable property.

“It will definitely increase investment,” he added.

Replying to a query about many banks already giving loans against such collateral, the cabinet secretary said this practice will be brought under a legal framework through the act.

“If the bank does fair appraisals, chances of forgery will reduce,” said Anwarul, when asked about possibilities of forgery.

The cabinet yesterday also approved the drafts of Government Primary School Teacher Welfare Trust Act, 2022 and National Employment Policy 2022, and approved in principle Bangladesh Nuclear Energy Commission (Revised) Act, 2022.

The cabinet secretary said the Government Primary School Teacher Welfare Trust will be an autonomous body run by 21 members.

The trust will have a separate fund, which will be deposited into a scheduled bank.

BNP’s Ishraque sent to jail in arson case

4 hurt as activists clash with cops

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader and former mayoral candidate of Dhaka South City Corporation, Ishraque Hossain, was sent to jail yesterday after a Dhaka court rejected his bail petition in an arson case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Tamanna Farah



passed the order after police produced Ishraque before the court with a forwarding report in which they appealed to confine him to jail.

Meanwhile, BNP leaders and activists clashed with police at Roy Saheb Bazar intersection in Old Dhaka around 2:30pm, demanding release of Ishraque while he was being taken to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj, said witnesses.

Mahbubur Rahman, of Kotwali Police Station, told The Daily Star, “BNP men attacked the police prison van which was carrying Ishraque.”

When law enforcers went to calm them down, they clashed with police, leaving four police personnel injured, he said.

OC Mizanur Rahman of the police station, said five BNP men were detained

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AKHAURA-AGARTALA LINK  
A series of never-ending delays  
Rail minister, Indian high commissioner disappointed

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link, a Bangladesh Railway (BR) project, was supposed to be completed within December 2018.

Although more than two and a half years since the estimated deadline has passed, the project witnessed only 53 percent progress till February this year.

The project authority has sought another year to complete it, with the current deadline expiring in June this year.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon and Indian High Commissioner Vikram Kumar Doraiswami have expressed their disappointment over the slow progress of the project, which is being implemented with an Indian grant.

Both the minister and high commissioner are expected to visit the site in Brahmanbaria today to draw the next work plan for salvaging the project, said BR sources.

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Sources also said top officials of the ministry, BR and project will be accompanying them.

The Ecnee approved the project in August 2016 to improve rail connectivity and boost trade between Bangladesh and India.

Under the Tk 477.8 crore project, a 14.26km dual gauge rail line has been planned to be constructed to open a new interchange between Bangladesh’s Akhaura and Agartala in India’s Tripura.

The rail link is expected to open up markets of India’s north-eastern states for Bangladesh, enhance smooth transportation of goods, facilitate people to people contact and reduce transport cost and time. However, the project has seen delays since the very beginning.

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Traffic jam is a condition so perpetual in Dhaka that it has become a characteristic by which the city is recognised. Despite causing peril and productivity loss for commuters, authorities seem to have taken the issue for granted, as no significant effort has been made to solve the problem. This photo was taken on Saat Masjid Road in Dhanmondi yesterday noon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Even upazilas will have traffic jams if AL stays in power

LGRD minister tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



There will be traffic jams even at the upazila level if Awami League remains in power for another five-year term, LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam told parliament yesterday.

The minister came up with the remarks in response to criticism of BNP MP Harunur Rashid over unbearable traffic jams in Dhaka.

Participating in the discussion centring Zila Parishad (Amendment) Bill 2022, Harun said, “Dhaka has come to a

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Empower children to ensure climate justice: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children and youth affected by climate change induced disasters are the future agents who will ensure climate justice for the world, said speakers at an event yesterday.

The event titled “Climate Change, Children and Violence” was hosted by Unicef, World Vision and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at a Dhaka hotel.

Suresh Bartlett, national director of World Vision Bangladesh, said violence against children and climate change are inextricably linked. “Our generation and governments have probably failed in many respects in addressing the fundamental issues of climate change and justice,” he said.

“Probably, we’re failing to address the violence against children as well. We must come together to double down on our efforts in order to address both the issues.”

Sheldon Yett, Unicef representative to Bangladesh, said children are at the frontline of the climate crisis.

“The most vulnerable are forced into overcrowded city slums, where they often take on hazardous work to survive and are at greater risk of child marriage and sex work,” he added.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh

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