

## DSCC to launch 3-day anti-mosquito drive from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) will conduct a three-day anti-mosquito drive in its seven wards from May 10.

DSCC mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh directed its officials concerned to conduct the operation at a regular review meeting at Nagar Bhavan yesterday.

Taposh said breeding of Aedes mosquitoes increases just before the rainy season is fully set. The DSCC mayor also said it is very important to destroy the breeding source of Aedes mosquitoes to control the dengue outbreak.

According to the pre-monsoon survey of DGHS, wards 38, 40, 45, are marked as risky areas while wards 13, 15, 21 and 23 are as medium risky areas.

Twenty-six mosquito control workers will work in a ward to spray both larvicide and adulticide two times in a day.

## Newborn rescued from hospital's toilet pipe

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A newborn was rescued from the sewerage pipe of Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital on Saturday after her mother gave birth in a toilet of the maternity ward, the hospital's director said yesterday.

The incident occurred around 4:00pm, said director Dr HM Saiful Islam.

"Both the mother and the newborn are doing well. Instructions have been given to prioritise their treatment," he further said.

The newborn's father, Neamat Ullah, a resident of Pirojpur, said doctors decided to conduct a caesarean surgery on her as her condition was critical and asked the husband to buy some medicines.

"When I came back, there was a crowd in front of the toilet. People told me that my wife gave birth there and the baby got stuck inside the pipe. Someone asked me to pull the newborn out from the pipe. I inserted my hand inside the pipe and got nothing. But I heard my baby cry from inside the pipe. I quickly went to the second floor, broke the pipe, and rescued my daughter. Thank God, I was able to save her," the

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Lawachhara National Park has seen tourists double its capacity during the Eid holidays. While the increasing number of tourists has earned an increased revenue, it is also posing a serious threat to the forest's biodiversity with endless noise and vehicles parked everywhere.

PHOTO: STAR

# A curse in disguise

Lawachhara National Park sees tourists double its capacity, biodiversity under threat

MINTU DESHWARA

During the Eid holidays, Lawachhara National Park sees tourists double its capacity. This has been the trend for quite some years now, except for the hiatus due to the pandemic in the last two years. Although the increasing number of tourists has earned increased revenue, it is posing a serious threat to the biodiversity of the site with the endless noise and vehicles parking everywhere.

Md Shahidul Islam, range officer in Sreemangal, told this correspondent that there were at least 2,375 tourists and 34 vehicles on Eid day, and the total revenue out of this was Tk 1,01,788. On the second day of the holidays, the total number of tourists was 3,539, with 78 parked vehicles and total revenue of Tk 1,57,981.

The numbers continued to persist over the following days as well. A total of 3,021 tourists and 88 parked vehicles were on the site on the third day, yielding Tk 1,35,576 in



revenue.

On the fourth day, there were 2,344 tourists and 63 parked vehicles, yielding a revenue of Tk 1,07,501.

On the fifth day, the total number of tourists was 1,934 and 39 parked vehicles.

Hotels, motels and resorts in all areas of the district, including Sreemangal, currently have zero vacancies, said Atiqur Rahman, inspector-in-charge of Lawachhara Tourist Police.

According to the divisional forest office, a study in 2012 found that the maximum capacity in Lawachhara National Park is 400 tourists per day.

Environmentalists said if the authorities cannot limit the number of tourists, the wildlife residing on the site will start to move out of Lawachhara due to all the noise pollution and ecosystem imbalance, which will create a huge risk to their lives.

"Free movement of people will harm the balance of eco-tourism and the environment. At the same time, noise pollution from vehicles carrying visitors to the protected forest creates panic and insecurity among the fauna," said Md Nurul Mohmain Milton, general secretary of Environmentalist Journalist Forum.

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## When greed trumps over need

Most canals in Mathbaria fall victim to mindless grabbing

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Once waterways used to be the only means of communication at Mathbaria upazila. Hundreds of canals and tributaries of the Baleshwar and Bishkhali rivers flowed through it.

However, at present, these canals, especially ones inside the municipality town, are barely alive as many have been grabbed by influential people. Additionally, narrow bridges and sluice gates have been constructed over them.

Locals said since Mathbaria's land

price is the highest in the district, influential people have grabbed these state-owned lands right under the nose of the authorities concerned.

The price of one-decimal land in the municipality town is between Tk 20-50 lakh depending on their location, whereas the price of the same land is Tk 10-12 lakh in the district town, added locals.

"Land on both sides of the canals has been grabbed by politically or locally influential people," said Emadul Haque Khan, a resident of the town, adding that they raised

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## One dead, 22 hurt as buses collide in Manikganj

STAR REPORT

A man was killed and 22 others were injured in a head-on collision between two buses on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Muljan in Sadar upazila, Manikganj yesterday.

The deceased -- identified as Badshah Mia (40) -- was a cleaner at Kurmitola General Hospital in Dhaka.

Bhaskar Saha, additional superintendent of police of Manikganj Sadar Circle, said the accident took place around 1:45pm when Chuadanga-bound bus of Janani Paribahan collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound bus of Selli Paribahan.

The injured passengers were sent to Manikganj

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## Not nominated, 'UP polls aspirant' beats up AL leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

An aspirant of Union Parishad election has allegedly beaten up an Awami League leader in Narail for not getting nomination to contest the polls.

The incident took place at Goalbathan village in Sadar upazila around 5:45pm on May 5, said locals.

Syed Tariqul Islam, the nomination seeker, along with his brother and relatives launched the attack on local AL leader Syed Samiul Alam Sharpu (50) at Chaltetala Bazar while he was exchanging Eid greetings with locals, said the victim's family. They indiscriminately beat him in the head, back, arms, leg and face with iron rods, they alleged.

In the attack, two of Sharpu's teeth were broken, they said, adding that Sharpu was undergoing treatment at Narail Sadar Hospital.

Contacted, Sharpu said instead of Tariqul, one Azizur Rahman Bhuiyan was nominated for last local UP election, which eventually led to the attack.

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2	693408	SupRB/Peror/Replace/21-22/W-239 Construction of 15.00m long RCC Girder Bridge on Nazipur Upazila H/Q-Boithakata GC Road at Chainage: 9784m under Replacement category [579762002]	OTM	24.05.2022 17:00pm	25.05.2022 01:00pm
3	693409	SupRB/Peror/Replace/21-22/W-240 Construction of 20.00m long RCC Girder Bridge on Mathbaria GC-Charduan GC (up to Nali Khaya Ghat) via Sapleza GC Road at Chainage: 4554m under Replacement category [579582001]	OTM	24.05.2022 17:00pm	25.05.2022 01:00pm

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