

## Collective effort need of the hour

Say speakers on preventing  
dengue outbreak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Collective efforts are very important to save people from dengue. Everyone will have to come forward to destroy all breeding sources of Aedes mosquitoes, said speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

"It is very difficult to control Aedes mosquitoes by applying insecticides. Reduction of the source is the most important aspect of controlling the carriers from spreading," said Prof Kabirul Bashar, entomologist of Jahangirnagar University who presented the keynote paper at the dialogue organised by Dhaka Utility Reporters Association (DURA) at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Prof Bashar said a total of 108 dengue patients are now undergoing treatment in different hospitals, of whom 48 are in Mugda hospital.

The authorities will have to take immediate and extensive measures to find out where they live and act accordingly to eliminate the sources, he added.

Urging everyone to come forward to prevent dengue, DSCC mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said Dhaka residents will have to be more aware and responsible to destroy breeding sources of Aedes mosquitoes.

"We are prepared with our manpower, insecticides and logistics and most importantly, our devotion and sense of responsibility," he said.

"We want to control Aedes mosquitoes properly in time. But if we are not helped by everyone, then it will be really difficult for us," said the mayor.

Adil Mohammad Khan, former general secretary of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said climate change

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Although BIWTA demarcated Turag River's boundaries, illegal business of construction materials, like sand and stones, was seen booming inside the range. This photo was taken recently from Gabtoli.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## AL's 73rd anniv today

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League (AL), one of the country's oldest political parties, has drawn up an elaborate programme to celebrate its 73rd founding anniversary today.

The anniversary programme will begin with hoisting the national and party flags atop all party offices, including the central office.



Later, glowing tributes will be paid to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on a small scale by placing wreaths at his portrait in Dhanmondi at 8:00am.

Besides, a delegation of AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC), led by presidium member Lt Col (ret'd) Muhammad Faruq Khan, will place wreaths at the mausoleum of Bangabandhu at Tungipara at 10:30am, maintaining health

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## Fear of flood looms over Dhaka's low-lying areas

DIPAN NANDY

"For the last one week, the water has been rising here. It's increased by, like, two feet. We're fearing that we may get flooded, at a time when the water in Sylhet is receding."

Md Enamul, a resident of Beraid, on the bank of Balu River, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"In 1988 and 1998, we witnessed terrible floods. This year, we are fearing a similar situation," he said.

It's not just Balu River; water level of other rivers around Dhaka is gradually increasing.

However, the water has not yet spilled onto the land yet. But if it does, several low-lying areas will be submerged, experts said.

Rivers' Name	Maximum Level	Danger Level	Level on Tuesday	Level on Wednesday
Turag	8.35m	5.96m	3.78m	3.86m
Balu	7.13m	5.75m	3.63m	3.70m
Shitalakkhya	6.93m	5.50m	3.44m	3.53m
Dhaleshwari	12.80m	11.40m	9.53m	9.66m
Buriganga	7.58m	6m	3.32m	3.30m

Source: Forecasting and Warning Centre, Water Development Board

According to Water Development Board's Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre, the water of Turag, Balu, Shitalakkhya, Dhaleshwari and Buriganga is rising.

Normally, water from some parts of the city drains into various lakes, including Hatirjheel. But as the water reaches closer to the danger level, the drainage system will increasingly be obstructed. According to the flood forecasting centre, the maximum water level of Balu is 7.13 metres; 5.75 metres is considered the danger level. Yesterday, the water level was 3.70 metres.

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**PRAYER  
TIMING  
JUNE 23**



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-52	8-17
Jamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## BR launches app for buying tickets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) yesterday launched the mobile app "Rail Sheba" to provide online-ticketing services.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan launched the app at a programme at Rail Bhaban.

The app has been developed by BR's vendor firm, which will be led by Shohoz from now on. Passengers will be able to buy train tickets using the app. They can also do this using BR's e-ticket website.

Meanwhile, the minister said BR will start selling advance train tickets from July 1, ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. Tickets for July 5 will be sold on July 1. Tickets for July 6, 7, 8 and 9 will be sold on July 2, 3, 4 and 5, respectively.

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Walking through this stretch of the footpath at Mirpur-10 is an ordeal for pedestrians. Roadside stalls, and the customers standing in front of them, hog a major part of the walkway, forcing people to squeeze by. This photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Their tactic: inhumane torture

Two members of Iraq-based syndicate, who abducted  
expats for ransom, held in Dhaka; two victims rescued

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Twenty-seven-year-old Apel Ali went to Iraq on February 26, 2018, and started working at a hotel in Baghdad.

Things were going fine for him, until June 14 this year.

Around 11:15am, Apel called his wife Shilpi Khatun and informed her that some Bangladeshi expatriates in Iraq kidnapped him and were torturing him for a ransom of Tk 1 lakh.

The kidnapers provided some numbers with mobile financial service (MFS) accounts in Bangladesh and instructed Apel's family to deposit the money. As per the demand, they made the deposit in the evening.

However, the deal was not over yet for them. The syndicate did not release Apel as promised. Instead, they called his wife Shilpi again and asked for another deposit. This time, the demand amounted to Tk 5 lakh.

**According to the two rescued victims, they were subjected to inhumane physical torture. Often they would leave them with little to no food or water for two to three days at a stretch.**

Apel's father then sought assistance from the economic and human trafficking team of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit. CTTC started investigating and managed to arrest two members of the syndicate from the capital's Motijheel and Narayanganj district on Monday.

Arrestee Imran Hossain (27) is a Bangladeshi agent of the syndicate -- responsible for collecting money through MFS. Another arrestee Alamgir Hossain (30) is an associate of Imran in the ransom collection.

Following the arrest, the syndicate was finally forced to release Apel and another Bangladeshi

» Syndicate has Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Iraqi members

» It has a network in all districts of Bangladesh

» Transactions worth over Tk 7 lakh found in last month

» 2 Bangladeshis rescued; 7 still under traffickers' custody

» Money collected through MFS then sent to Iraq by hundi

victim Sher Ali. The two victims are currently under the custody of the Bangladeshi embassy in Iraq.

CTTC, from the information collected from the recently released victims, came to know that the syndicate has held at least seven more Bangladeshi victims captive.

Confirming the development, Tohidul Islam, CTTC additional deputy commissioner, told this correspondent yesterday that efforts are now underway to rescue the other victims.

"We are also trying to identify other syndicate members in Bangladesh," he said.

A case was filed regarding the arrest with Motijheel Police Station on Tuesday.

### UNBEARABLE TORTURE

Investigators said these syndicates have been involved in abducting Bangladeshis in Iraq and torturing them for ransom for a long time.

According to the two rescued victims, they were subjected to inhumane physical torture. Often they would leave them with little to no food or water for two to three days at a stretch.

But that's not where it stops. The two victims informed the investigators that syndicate members have even killed multiple victims by

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## Publisher of excellence Speakers remember Mohiuddin Ahmed at memorial event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, publishers, authors and people from different sectors remembered veteran author, editor and founder of University Press Limited (UPL) Mohiuddin Ahmed yesterday, on the occasion of his first death anniversary.

UPL organised the memorial lecture at its premises in the afternoon. Around 50 people participated in the programme and shared their memories involving the noted publisher.

Speakers said Ahmed was a publisher of excellence. He brought out something special through his career.

Badiuddin Nazir, editor of UPL, presented the keynote paper and said Ahmed invested most of his lifetime in UPL.

He had even taken a loan just to build UPL, which later made a significant impact in the publishing sector.

While speaking, researcher-essayist Mofidul Hoque said Ahmed was a blessing to work with. He was like a "lighthouse" when it came to ethics and strategies in the book business.

Mahrukh Mohiuddin, managing director of UPL and daughter of Ahmed, expressed gratitude to the participants.

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## Chisty can perform duties as Satkhira mayor, says HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared way for Satkhira Municipality Mayor Tazkin Ahmed Chisty, a local BNP leader, to discharge his official duties.

The HC bench of Justice Zafar Ahmed and Justice Md Akhtaruzzaman delivered the order following a petition filed by Chisty, challenging the legality of the government order of suspension.

The local government ministry on June 15 suspended him on charge of irregularities and corruption of Tk 3 crore.

Tazkin's lawyer Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal told the court that his client did not commit any irregularity. The government suspended him on political grounds, the lawyer argued.

## Raushan to return home on June 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition leader Raushan Ershad will return to the country on June 27 after eight months of treatment in a Bangkok hospital.

"Raushan Ershad's physical condition has improved and she is stable now. After completing treatment in Bangkok's Bumrungrad International Hospital, she will return to Dhaka on June 27," Mamun Hasan, assistant private secretary of the opposition leader told this correspondent.

After the end of the ongoing budget session of parliament, Raushan will leave Dhaka for Bangkok on July 4 for a routine check-up.

Raushan has been suffering from respiratory problems and was flown to Bangkok by an air ambulance on November 5 last year.

## STUDENT'S DEATH PBI given time again to finish probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked Police Bureau of Investigation to submit -- by July 13 -- the probe report in a case filed against Bashundhara Group MD Sayem Sobhan Anvir and seven others over the rape and murder of a college student.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Begum Yasmin Ara passed the order after IO Md Alauddin, an inspector of PBI, failed to submit the report. With this, PBI took 14 dates to submit it.

Police recovered the body of the 21-year-old in a Gulshan flat on April 26 last year. Her elder sister on September 6 filed the case bringing allegations of rape and murder.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN