



Dengue cases cross 50,000 mark, three more die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 767 new dengue cases recorded yesterday, the total number of people infected with the mosquito-borne disease crossed the 50,000 mark this year.

Besides, the death toll has risen to 216, with three more fatalities.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the number of total cases rose to 50,759 in the past 24 hours till yesterday morning, of which, 17,760 are from outside Dhaka.

Of the deaths, 128 occurred in Dhaka, 24 in Cox's Bazar, 29 in Chittagong, nine in Barishal, seven in Khulna,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



The entire campus of Dhaka University is in a festive mood for the upcoming 53rd convocation. Graduates were seen sharing a moment of joy, pride and nostalgia with their mates after collecting the convocation costume yesterday. It was as if the four years of hard work finally paid off for them as many have always been waiting for this moment.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



BNP won't be allowed to 'play with fire' Says Quader

STAR REPORT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP will not be allowed anymore to "play with fire" as the country's people would surely resist them.

"We have to remain active in the field in December, and that's why all the AL leaders and activists should get prepared from now," he told the triennial conference of Barguna district AL at the local circuit house.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said in December, the party will resist the patrons of vote theft, corruption and militancy as the AL is not afraid of BNP's hollow words.

Quader urged the local party leaders to remain alert so that corrupt people, extortionists, drug abusers and BNP-Jamaat men cannot enter the party.

Finally, a contractor

BR appoints firm four months after project deadline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) finally appointed a contractor to carry out preparatory work for a project to build a workshop for maintaining railway carriages and wagons, four months after the project's original deadline expired.

BR took the said project in February 2020. The delay in appointing the contractor led the authorities to extend the deadline up to June 2024 from its original deadline of June 2022.

This means that the 1.5-year project will now take at least 3.5 years.

The Tk 30.05-crore project was supposed to be completed within June this year. However, the authorities could not even complete the tendering process within the deadline.

For added context, of 34 ongoing BR projects, 24 have already been revised at least once. At least five projects taken over a decade ago could not be completed yet.

Yesterday, BR appointed a French-Bangladeshi joint venture firm to carry out the feasibility study and prepare a detailed design for the workshop in Rajbari.

Under the contract, the firm will get 16 months to complete the work at a cost of Tk 26.98 crore.

The companies are Systra SA of France and Development Design Consultants Ltd of Bangladesh.

Project Director Kudrot-E-

Khuda and Systra (South Asia) Managing Director Hari Somalraju

AT A GLANCE

- » Project to build workshop for maintaining carriages, wagons
- » Preparatory works to be completed in 16 months
- » Project to cost Tk 26.98cr
- » Deadline extended from June 2022 to June 2024

"The Covid-19 pandemic has caused the delay in the tendering process, consequently delaying the implementation of the project. If the project is found to be feasible, we will prepare a DPP and request the authorities concerned to search for the fund to commence physical works of the workshop as soon as possible."

KUDROT-E-KHUDA
BR Project Director

process, consequently delaying the implementation of the project.

However, BR sources said it was the legal complexities over the tendering process that caused the delay.

Khuda said their contractor will complete the feasibility study within the first eight months of the contract and then prepare an engineering design and a tender document in detail.

Besides, he said if the project is found to be feasible, they will prepare a development project

However, a large number of carriages and wagons have been procured in the last few years and an additional fleet is expected to be added in the near future.

And so, BR has taken the initiative to construct a modern maintenance workshop in Rajbari, said a BR official, requesting anonymity.

Railways Ministry Secretary Humayun Kabir and BR Director General Dhirendra Nath Mazumder also spoke during the contract signing ceremony.

During the meeting at the parishad's central office in the capital, its general secretary Rana Dasgupta briefed the delegation about the human rights violations religious ethnic minorities and tribal communities have faced ahead of the upcoming 12th parliamentary elections.

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People waiting to oust govt: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday claimed that the people are now eager like a "rumbling volcano" to oust the current government.

"All of our rallies have been held peacefully... But the government is so scared that it has arrested more than 500 leaders and workers of our party in false cases," Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party, said while addressing a discussion at Jatiya Press Club, marking the 46th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani.

The BNP leader alleged that the government has again started filing "false", "fictitious" cases against opposition leaders and activists.

He said common people are joining their divisional rallies with huge enthusiasm.

Fakhrul called Bhasani a rare politician and urged BNP leaders and activists to follow his ideals.

'Minorities feeling unsafe ahead of polls' Oikya Parishad tells US commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad leaders at a meeting with a delegation of US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) yesterday expressed deep concern over the security of their lives and properties ahead of the upcoming 12th parliamentary elections.

During the meeting at the parishad's central office in the capital, its general secretary Rana Dasgupta briefed the delegation about the human rights violations religious ethnic minorities and tribal communities have faced ahead of the upcoming 12th parliamentary elections.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PRAYER TIMING

NOVEMBER 17

Fazr Zohr Asr Magrib Esha

AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00

JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Political situation, bigotry behind tourism drop
Say travel-agent leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) yesterday said unhealthy political environment and religious bigotry are the major reasons why foreign tourists are not coming to Bangladesh, restricting the tourism sector from flourishing.

Top leaders of ATAB - a platform of around 3,500 travel agents across the country -- also said the government is doing almost nothing to develop or boost the country's tourism industry.

ATAB leaders made the remarks while holding a courtesy call with the newly elected executive committee of Aviation and Tourism Journalists' Forum of Bangladesh (ATJFB) at its office in the capital.

Tanzim Anwar, president of ATJFB, led the delegation on behalf of the organisation.

ATAB President SM Manzur Murshed Mahbub said media plays a crucial role in developing the tourism industry in any country.

ATAB Secretary General Abdus Salam Aref said there are many problems regarding fixing airfare by different airlines operating to and from Bangladesh.

Mentioning their issues with Biman and the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, he said, "We all should work together to solve them."

About ATAB's first ever three day long Bangladesh International Travel and Tourism Expo, which will start on December 1, he said they want to discuss all their issues in the expo.

TK 2.59CR MISAPPROPRIATION Chinese national among 6 jailed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced six people, including a Chinese national and two officials of National Bank Ltd, to different terms of imprisonment in a case filed over the embezzlement of Tk 2.59 crore.

The accused are Chinese National Yang Wang Chung, chairman of The Sinfia Knitters Ltd, its managing director Khasru Al Rahman, directors Golam Mostafa and Mansurul Haque, the then senior-vice president (export) of National Bank Ltd at Dilkusha branch Abdul Wadud Khan, and its executive vice-president Shahabuddin Chowdhury.

Abdul Wadud and Shahabuddin were each sentenced to five years imprisonment and fined

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Nabanna festivities reach Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The smell of new paddy has engulfed every house in rural Bangladesh, announcing the arrival of Nabanna.

Nabanna Mela (fair) is generally held in the countryside when the first day of Bangla month Agrahayan greets the nation. The festival cuts across communities and is a cause for festivities for the farmers.

Yesterday, the celebrations went beyond the windy meadows of the countryside and arrived at the concrete jungle -- Dhaka.

With the theme "Let's all meet at the Nabanna (hay) festival", an event was organised on the open stage of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. As per tradition, the festival was organised by National Nabanna Utsab Celebration Board.

The festival started at dawn to the tune of flute.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE



Mr. Mahbub Jamil

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) is deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. Mahbub Jamil, Former President, MCCI. He breathed his last at 2:40 am on 16 November 2022. He was the President in the year 1999. Inna lillahi wa inna laihi rajaeun.

Mr. Jamil was the father of Mr. Rubaiyat Jamil, Director, MCCI.

MCCI expresses its deepest condolences to the grieving family and humbly requests all to pray for Mr. Jamil's departed soul. May Allah rest his soul in Jannah Firdous and bless his family with patience.

May Allah grant the bereaved family enough strength to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.



Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka



While curbing the presence of hawkers and vendors on the city's footpaths has become a consistent headache for the authorities, vendors at Gawsia Market area take the problems up by another notch. Food vendors were seen setting up their stalls by blocking part of the road alongside the footpaths, creating difficulties for vehicles and pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION