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PADMA BRIDGE
WB realised
its allegations
were false: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has realised that it had brought false allegations against the Awami League government regarding corruption in the Padma Bridge construction project, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

The premier said this in parliament in reply to a query from Jatiya Party MP Syed Hossain of Dhaka-4.

Hasina said during her recent visit to the World Bank's headquarters in Washington DC, she again raised the issue of "false allegations" while holding a discussion.

"(In my speech) I firmly mentioned that I will never patronise any evil purpose which will diminish the dignity of the people of Bangladesh," she said.

She added, "After my speech, I presented a painting of Padma Bridge to the World Bank president. World Bank

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Braving scorching heat
in the line of duty

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

It was around 2:30pm on Tuesday. Amid the boiling heat, dozens of vehicles were lined up at two sides of the Bijoy Sarani signal in the capital, patiently waiting for their turn to go.

Among the passengers stopped at the signal, Rubel Hasan, 32, was waiting inside a CNG-run three-wheeler, sweating profusely as a blistering



heat wave has been sweeping over the country. "How can we possibly survive in this city with such chaotic traffic?" a frustrated Rubel said.

Just a few yards away, stood Alamgir, a traffic constable in his mid-40s, to control the flow of vehicles under the sizzling sun. A few minutes later, Alamgir let the vehicles go with his handheld signal and the vehicles, including the one Rubel was in, started moving again.

Rubel might have found some relief after crossing the signal. However, for Alamgir, it is the road where he has to stand for almost the entirety of his eight-hour-long shift, no matter how high the temperature is out on the street.

"What else can we do? It is our daily duty but

sometimes it is unbearable to stand for a long time under the sun. Yet we cannot leave the road unauthorised," Md Alamgir told The Daily Star.

The capital is enduring a prolonged heat wave this summer, with midday outdoor temperatures reaching 37 degrees Celsius at times. Despite the intense heat, several hundred traffic sergeants like Alamgir work hard to maintain traffic order on major streets wearing synthetic uniforms.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

There are around 4,000 traffic personnel working under the traffic division in Dhaka to maintain vehicular movement. The scorching heat is taking a heavy toll on them as they are exposed to the constant heat for a long time.

Md Mushfiq, 41, a constable stationed at the Agargaon intersection, said, "I already have knee problems from standing for extended periods while on duty. Now, the heatwave exacerbates these issues, leaving me feeling fatigued quickly."

"We are trying to drink as much water as possible. Still, the heat makes us feel drained out," he said.

Sergeant Asaduzzaman Jewel at the Farmgate

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Preventable,
yet a public
health concern

Say speakers on
fatty liver disease

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 45 million people in the country are affected by fatty liver disease, adding an economic burden of Tk 75,690 crore which is more than double the health sector's annual budget, said Dr Md Saiful Islam Elin, a consultant hepatologist at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), at a roundtable yesterday.

"The doctors need to step up and raise awareness as the number is increasing with every passing day," he added.

He made the remarks at a discussion titled, "Fatty Liver: National Economic Burden of Bangladesh" organised by Hepatology Society, Dhaka at the capital's Cirdap auditorium, marking sixth International Nash (non-alcoholic steatohepatitis) Day.

According to the attending physicians, a healthy liver turns into a fatty one when the weight of its stored fat equals 5-10 percent of the liver's weight. Upper abdominal pain, sudden weight loss and fatigue are the most common symptoms.

However, opting for a healthy lifestyle can prevent these health problems.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

WORKERS IN MALDIVES
47pc don't get
promised wages

Says RMMRU study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 47 percent Bangladeshi migrant workers in the Maldives do not receive the wages promised to them, according to a recent study.

The study, conducted by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), said on average, a worker earns Tk 35,147 per month there.

It also said documented Bangladeshi workers in the Maldives earn an average monthly income of Tk 37,066, while undocumented ones Tk 25,650.

The study, titled "Migration Dynamics of Bangladesh and the Maldives Corridor," was

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Plastic waste a
threat to soil fertility

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Plastic pollution is deteriorating the germination capacity of soil by killing larvae, microbes and earthworms that enriches the soil's fertility, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They made the remarks at the event jointly organised by seven developmental organisations at Department of Environment auditorium in the capital's Agargaon marking World Environment Day.

The organisers are Bangladesh Resources Centre for Indigenous Knowledge, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Environment and Social Development Organisation, A Better Bangladesh Trust, Bandhu Foundation, Green Savers, and Association for Land Reforms and Development.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

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Budget designed
to plunder nat'l
wealth: BNP

UNB, Dhaka

Terming the proposed budget for anti-people and deceptive, BNP yesterday said it has been designed to loot several billion dollars of national wealth under the shelter of a corrupt regime.

Speaking at a press conference, party secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir also said it will not be possible to ensure people's welfare through the budget.

BNP arranged the press conference to give the party's formal reaction to the proposed budget.

In the budget, Fakhru said, the finance minister did not acknowledge the ongoing economic crisis, growing income disparity, dwindling foreign exchange reserves, rampant money laundering, and huge debt burden on the shoulders of the country's people.

He said the government also did not give any outline in the budget about how to overcome the economic crises and challenges and completely avoided the concept of good governance and justice.

"There is also no direction in the budget to prevent widespread corruption and money laundering," he observed.

He said all arrangements have been made in the budget to smartly loot lakhs of crores of taka, plunder banks, and public money through a syndicate.

He said an accountable, democratic, and responsible elected government must be established to get rid of the ongoing national crisis. "The only way to do this is to hold a free, fair, impartial, inclusive and acceptable election under a polls-time impartial government."



There is also no
direction in the budget
to prevent widespread
corruption and money
laundering.

MIRZA FAKHRUL
ISLAM ALAMGIR
BNP secretary general

Mrs. Latifa Begum (Huri)

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Daughter, Sister, Friend, Wife, Mother, Teacher
Milad on 09/06/2023 after Asr prayers. All well-wishers welcome.
Address: Mirpur-10, Senpara Parbata, 89, Boundary Road, Villa Magnolia, Maloli 2-D
Contact: 01912046495

MJL Bangladesh PLC.

Mobil House, CWS (A) 13/A, Gulshan Avenue, Bir Uttam Mir Shawkat Sarak, Dhaka-1212

Notice regarding change of company name

Notice is hereby given that the renowned company of the country "MJL Bangladesh Limited" changed its name to "MJL Bangladesh PLC." as per section 11 (Ka) of the Companies Act 1994 (Amended Act 2020) with the permission of the shareholders of the company, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchange respectively.

Therefore, from now on "MJL Bangladesh Limited" will be operated under the following name:

MJL Bangladesh PLC.

On behalf of the company

Dhaka, Bangladesh
Date: 8 June 2023


Md. Rokibul Kabir
Company Secretary



MJL Bangladesh PLC.