



Every day, these locally improvised battery-operated auto-rickshaws carry passengers through the Babu Bazar Bridge over the Buriganga amid speeding vehicles. Such slow moving and overloaded vehicles can lead to accidents. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Mild heatwave sweeping across country

BSS, Dhaka

A mild heatwave is sweeping over parts of the north, south, north-eastern, and central parts of the country, including the capital.

“Mild heatwave is sweeping over Sylhet and Mymensingh divisions, and the districts of Dhaka, Khulna, Kushtia, Faridpur, Tangail, Kishoreganj, Manikganj, Bogura, Sitakunda, Narayanganj, and Nilphamari. It may become less intense in some places,” said a Met office forecast for the 24 hours from 9:00am yesterday.

Day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers, accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal, and Chattogram divisions and many places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh, and Sylhet divisions, with moderately heavy to very heavy rainfall at places over southern parts of the country.

2 Rohingya held with over 10,000 yaba pills in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) detained two Rohingyas with 10,300 yaba pills at New Market in Savar early yesterday.

The detainees were identified as Rafiq, 18, and Mamunur, 23. Both are Myanmar citizens and staying at Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar.

Lt Commander Rakib Mahmud Khan, company commander of Rab-4, told The Daily Star that two Rohingyas, posing as transgenders, were carrying a huge consignment of yaba tablets in the New Market area around 7:30am.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team conducted a drive in the area and detained them, said the Rab official.

After searching them, 10,300 yaba pills wrapped with some poly bags were found on them.

During interrogation, Rafiq and Mamunur admitted that they used to smuggle the yaba from Myanmar and sell it to Dhaka and its adjacent areas.

The process to file a case against the two is underway, he added.

VIOLENCE IN RAMU 11 years on, justice still pending

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Eleven years on, victims of the communal attack on the Buddhist community in Ramu of Cox’s Bazar are still waiting for justice.

In late September 2012, attackers unleashed violence on the minority community on the pretext that a Buddhist man, Uttam Barua, demeaned Islam on Facebook.

A subsequent investigation by The Daily Star found that the Facebook account of Uttam Barua may have been hacked to post a photoshopped picture to create the ground for the attack.

On September 20, the attackers set fire to Buddhist temples, vandalised and looted more than 50 houses in Ramu. They also attacked Mushurikhola crematorium at Khurushkul village in Cox’s Bazar Sadar upazila and tried to attack the houses of Hindus in Kharulia village.

The following day, they



The debris around a Buddhist temple in Ramu, Cox’s Bazar after the violent attacks in 2012.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

attacked and ransacked five Buddhist temples in Ukhiya upazila and damaged two Hindu temples in Palongkhali union of the upazila. They also torched and vandalised Buddhist houses in Hoaikong union of Teknaf.

As many as 18 cases were filed following the coordinated attacks. All of the cases are still under trial, with all accused on

bail.

No significant progress has taken place in the proceedings of cases, which had been moved before the High Court and lower courts seeking justice, as the lawyers concerned have not taken extensive initiatives to get the matters settled.

It is still uncertain when the HC will deal with the probe reports,

System digital, operation manual

Even after 8 months of launch, ACC yet to start digitisation programme

MD ABBAS

Even though eight months have passed since the Anti-Corruption Commission launched its digitisation programme, it is still reliant on a manual system.

All arrangements for digitisation have been completed already and the authority has purchased specialised software and provided training to 650 ACC officials and employees, involving a total expenditure of Tk 4 crore for the entire process.

Contacted, ACC Secretary Md Mahbub Hossain mentioned that it takes time to get accustomed to using this new software.

Sources have indicated that once the digitisation process is implemented, every level of work in the ACC is supposed to be completed using software -- including receiving complaints, conducting investigations, handling cases, and preparing reports for submission to the court. The software is called Investigation and Prosecution Management System (IPMS), which will allow ACC officials and employees to access the latest progress of the file with just one click.

According to some officials, the ACC has all the arrangements to run activities through the IPMS software for all official procedures in a digital manner. However, they



“Gradually, all the official work of the commission will be conducted online. Since it [the system] is new, it will take some more time for everyone to get used to it.”

MD MAHBUB HOSSAIN, ACC Secretary

would enhance people’s confidence in the ACC, expedite work, and promote transparency.

Under the existing manual system, there is no way to learn the outcome of a complaint, investigation, or mid-level enquiry.

Earlier, the ACC issued directives instructing all officials to send letters as e-documents to ministries or offices, including the Cabinet Division. The directive added that letters cannot be sent as hard copies in any way.

Furthermore, the ACC is set to

the use of the IPMS software, with arrangements made to handle corruption cases through management, investigation management, investigation, and prosecution management modules. “IPMS is the latest addition to the commission. We began using it a few days ago, and it’s an ongoing process. Gradually, all the official work of the commission will be conducted online. Since it’s new, it will take some more time for everyone to get used to it,” stated Mahbub Hossain.

Dengue vaccine trial shows promising results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A dengue vaccine, of which a clinical trial has been conducted in Bangladesh, is showing promising results in fighting against the viral disease.

Researchers from icddr,b, and the Lerner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont (UVM), USA are the first to study the promising dengue vaccine in Bangladesh.

Their work -- evaluation of the single-dose tetravalent dengue vaccine (it can fight all four serotypes) candidate TV005 -- demonstrated safety and immune responsiveness in children and adults.

The result of the clinical trial, along with the study, was published in the journal -- The Lancet Infectious Diseases recently.

Currently, fluid management and symptom control are the only available treatments for dengue.

Investigators at the icddr,b and UVM’s Vaccine Testing Centre (VTC) had begun their trial titled “Dengue in Dhaka Initiative (DIDI)” in 2015.

The clinical trials and laboratory assay infrastructure as well as a preliminary dengue prevalence study were established and performed at the icddr,b in 2015.

In the trial, almost 200 volunteers, aged between 1 and 49 years, received the TV005 vaccine or placebo over the course of three years, beginning in 2016.

“TV005 was shown to be well-tolerated.



“The development of an effective and tetravalent dengue vaccine is a very high priority for the large population of Bangladesh, which is now seeing severe dengue outbreaks.”

RASHIDUL HAQUE
Senior scientist at icddr,b

Antibodies to all four dengue serotypes were found in most volunteers after vaccination; individuals who had been infected previously with dengue had higher antibody counts,” the study found.

It said this data moves the TV005 dengue vaccine closer to widespread use in endemic populations, while garnering support for ongoing large, phase III efficacy trials.

The UVM VTC has been evaluating

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Hasina, a symbol of democracy Speakers tell event marking PM’s birthday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the national election will be held according to the constitution and there will be no election in the country unless it is held under Sheikh Hasina.

Quader made the remark while addressing a discussion organised by the AL on the occasion of the birthday of party President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center BICC in the capital.

“The Awami League does not care about sanctions or visa policy...,” said Quader.

He also asked the party leaders and activists to remain careful to deal with the arson terror following the 48-hour ultimatum issued by the BNP.

“We will not leave the streets and deal with the conspiracy. For the next 36 days, we will not rest. You [party activists] will have to remain careful and take to the streets once our captain calls,” Quader, also the road, transport and bridges minister, said.

Addressing the BNP, Quader said, “How will you occupy Dhaka? We are ready for that; we will not leave the streets.”

Speakers at the event also termed Hasina a symbol of party unity and democracy.

Among others, Awami League presidium members Mosharraf Hossain, Abdur Razzaque, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Abdur Rahaman, and joint general secretaries Mahbubul Alam Hanif and AFM Bahauddin Nasim spoke at the programme.

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Mastermind of online gambling racket held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department on Thursday arrested the mastermind of an online gambling racket at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka, while he was fleeing to Nepal.

The arrestee, Matiur Rahman, is a suspect in a case filed with Paltan Model Police Station, after six members of his group were arrested in the city and Sirajganj on August 3. They were accused of facilitating gambling through online platforms Mel Bet, 1x Bet and Bet Winner.

“We had information that Matiur used to travel between Dhaka and Russia, from where the betting sites are operated. So, we alerted all airports and land ports to arrest him if he tries to enter or leave the country,” said Muhammad Rezaul Masud, special superintendent of CID’s Cyber Intelligence and Risk Management wing, yesterday.

Rezaul said Matiur had a plan to go to Russia from Nepal. Matiur was later produced before a Dhaka court, where he gave a confessional statement, said the CID officer.

During primary interrogation, Matiur mentioned that he went to Russia in 2017 for studies and completed graduation there.

In 2021, he joined 1xBet and Bet Winner. He collected money from gamblers in Bangladesh using SIM cards issued to his associates and sent it to betting site operators through hundi, said CID additional special superintendent of police Azad Rahman.



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