

HEATWAVE

Guideline launched to mitigate health risks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To protect children and vulnerable populations, including expecting mothers, from heat-related health risks, the Directorate General of Health Services yesterday announced a national guideline on heat-related illnesses.

DGHS, with support from Unicef, unveiled the guidelines during a programme at a city hotel.

The country witnessed an extremely hot April this year. "Heat alerts" were also issued amid the sweltering heat, resulting in the closure of educational institutions by education ministry.

A total of 15 people died of heatstroke across Bangladesh in the last 14 days, according to DGHS.

The guideline, titled "National Guideline on Heat-Related Illness", has 17 chapters, including clinical manifestation, management, and assessment of heatstroke for adult populations, pregnant women, infants, children, and adolescents.

The guidelines include Unicef's heatwave framework -- BEAT, BEAT, as an acronym, refers to -- Be aware of heat stress and protect yourself, Easily identify the

symptoms of heat stress, Act immediately to protect yourself and others, and Take the person to a health facility if they are showing serious symptoms.

Health Minister Dr Samanta Lal Sen said children, the elderly, and those with various diseases have been prioritised in these guidelines. Instructions have been given to hospitals to follow the rules.

Doctors have been trained online in light of these guidelines, he added.

Unicef Deputy Representative Emma Bringham said a recent report by Unicef estimates that from 2020 to 2050, the number of children in Bangladesh exposed to high heatwave frequencies will increase from 2.6 million to over 35 million.

DGHS Additional Director (planning & development) Meerjady Sabrina Flora, said alongside climate change, unplanned urbanisation is responsible for the heatwave.

The heat stress impacts mental health, the economy, and causes health risks.

DGHS Director General Abul Bashir Mohammed Khurshid Alam presided over the event. DGHS Director (planning & research) Afreena Mahmood also spoke.



A rickshaw tips over as its wheel strikes a large pothole, while the passengers fall dangerously close to a moving bus on Hatkhola Road near the Tikatuli footbridge in the capital. The road was dug up for the installation of waterpipes and power lines about a month ago and has been in a dismal state since then, resulting in such accidents frequently. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Some relatives of officials misusing police stickers

Says DMP official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some relatives of officials working with different institutions including the police force are illegally using stickers of those institutions on their vehicles for undue privileges on city streets, a traffic police official said yesterday.

"It is seen that relatives of police officials are going around with police stickers on their vehicles. This is happening with officials working with other institutions too," SM Mehedi Hasan, joint commissioner (Traffic South) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told a press briefing at DMP media centre.

In some cases, the police officials found that the sticker-bearers have no connection with the said officials, he said.

During drives since April 12, the traffic divisions have so far taken legal actions against 363 vehicles for carrying unauthorised stickers.

Of them, 40 vehicles were fined in Ramna Division, 164 vehicles in Motijheel, nine in Lalbagh, 44 in Wari, 34 in Tejgaon, 15 in Gulshan and Uttara each and 42 in Mirpur division, according to statistics of DMP's traffic wing.

Replying to a query, Mehedi Hassan said they were writing to the institutions named on the stickers, listing the details of sticker bearers and their said connections with officials of the institutions.

The traffic divisions also fined 461 unfit vehicles and impounded 2,350 other illegal vehicles since April 12.

A stinky welcome

Bagerhat municipality itself piles up waste in open space



PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

Stench of municipal waste lining the roadside welcomes anyone entering Bagerhat city.

For a long time, the Bagerhat municipality has been dumping garbage collected from its wards 7, 8, and 9.

As such, all passengers on buses entering the town, as well as pedestrians and residents of the area endure the brunt of the municipality's mismanagement in waste disposal.

Easy-bike driver Sirajul Islam said, "Garbage remains piled up by the road from Bagerhat bus stand to Sadhanar Mor, emitting a noxious odour, causing discomfort for passersby."

Echoing him, Jasmine Akter, a resident of the area, said, "The odour is unbearable. A town cannot work like this. I wonder what the municipality is doing with our taxes."

Tayabur Rahman, another locals, said, "The garbage flows into the nearby canal, obstructing its passage and contaminating the water. Come monsoon, the problem escalates, as dirty water floods the vicinity. Many dwellers leave the area on a regular basis."

Broadly speaking, the situation is same across the 16 square kilometres of Bagerhat municipality, established in 1958, with a present population of around 1.5 lakh.

Several other areas in the town, including

Basabati, Bagerhat Government High School neighbourhood, Majhidanga and Mithapukur Par are going through the same predicament.

On June 23, 2019, Bagerhat municipality took up a Tk 8.32 crore project to set up a full-fledged waste management facility in Majhidanga area. A five-acre land was acquired to this end.

However, even after nearly five years, construction of the facility is yet to be completed. Meanwhile, the town's cleaners have been discarding the wastes in an unplanned way here and there on the acquired land.

TM Rezaul Haque, assistant engineer of Bagerhat municipality, said, "The waste management facility is yet to be completed, so wastes are often dumped in the acquired land in an unplanned way. Due to this the residents have been facing some problems."

"However, we are working on the issue. A Tk 35 crore 'Coastal Town Climate Resilient Project' has been taken up to set up a modern waste management system in the town and it will begin soon. Once the project is implemented, the existing issues regarding waste management will be resolved," he also said.

"Under the project, we will produce fuel oil, and fertilisers from the municipal wastes. Meanwhile, some NGOs are working on managing human wastes in the municipality," Rezaul added.



Palli Bidyut staffers go on indefinite strike

They want an end to wage, benefit discrimination

STAR REPORT

Officials and employees of Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) began an indefinite strike nationwide yesterday, to press their 16-point demand, which includes the elimination of wage and benefit discrimination.

According to memorandums submitted to the respective deputy commissioners, the officials protested in front of their respective offices.

However, they said at least one official remained on duty at all PBS sub-stations each to ensure electricity supply.

The memorandum said, "All other officials are on the strike. All customer services have been suspended."

My shop was reconstructed, and I now required a new meter. But after waiting for two hours, I couldn't reach anybody. Many customers left after waiting.

ARIF KHANDOKAR, a Ctg shopkeeper

Our correspondents from various districts reported that PBS staffers rallied in front of their offices in Chattogram, Rajshahi, Munshiganj, Noakhali, Cumilla, Kishoreganj, Joypurhat, Thakurgaon, Jhenaidah, and Jamalpur in the morning.

Throughout the day, they were unavailable to consumers. For instance, Arif Khandokar, a shopkeeper from Sitakunda in Chattogram, went to PBS's Sitakunda Zonal office to apply for a change in his electric meter.

However, he found that all officials had gone to Mirsarai to participate in the strike.

"My shop was reconstructed, and I now required a new meter. But after waiting for two hours, I couldn't reach anybody. Many customers left after waiting here," he said.

The demonstrators said despite their involvement in providing electricity to remote areas, they have faced extreme discrimination in terms of rank, salary, allowance, bonus, and promotion.

PBS officers and employees previously submitted memorandums to the chairman of the Rural Electrification Board to address their demands, but to no avail, they claimed.

There are 80 PBS offices with a total of 3.58 crore subscribers, representing more than 70 percent of total consumers.

CHAR KURULIA IN PABNA
Tk 8cr bridge work stalled for 3 years

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Construction of a connecting bridge on a canal in Char Kurulia area under Ishwardi upazila in Pabna has remained incomplete for three years.

The Local Government and Engineering Department initiated the 96-metre bridge's construction on the canal in the vicinity of Padma river, locally known as Padmar Kole, in 2021 to connect the shoal land with rest of the upazila.

The Tk 8 crore project was scheduled to be completed within one and a half years.

Visiting the site recently, this correspondent found that only two pillars in the middle of the canal were erected, while two guide walls were constructed on both banks.

Although the construction firm is no longer carrying out the work, they recently placed some pipes at the site to show that work was ongoing, alleged locals.

"The contractor left the site three years ago after constructing two pillars and two guide walls," said Abdul Mannan, a resident of the village.



According to official sources, the project's deadline got extended twice, but the construction firm did not resume work.

"Farmers cultivate vegetables, bananas, and other cash crops on thousands of acres of shoal land in Lakshmikunda union. But due to a lack of road communication, farmers face trouble carrying their crops from the shoal to nearby markets," said Sheikh Mehedi Hasan, a farmer in Shahapur area.

"During dry season, farmers have to carry crops on their heads for several kilometres, while in monsoon they use boats when the river and canal become navigable. The locals have long been demanding construction of a bridge over the canal," he also said.

ICL Private Limited, a Jashore-based construction firm, got the contract for the project but did not continue work after some time, citing an increase in price of construction materials, said Enamul Kabir, LGED engineer in the upazila.

"We have asked them to complete the work and submit an application for time extension. We hope the bridge will be completed by next year," he added.

The construction company officials could not be reached for comments.

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Memo No.35.01.5500.443.07.103.23-642

Date : 05.05.2024

e-Tender Notice

E-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Magura for the procurement of

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Work	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	979164 e-GP /MRD/PMP/01/2023-2024	Repair and Rehabilitation of Arpara Bridge including Bearing Pad, Expansion joint Replacement work and Approach Road at 30+780 km of Jashore (Daratana More)-Magura (Vaina More) Road (N-702) under Magura Road Division Magura during the Financial Year 2023-2024.	26-05-2024 at 16:00	27-05-2024 at 12:00	27-05-2024 at 12:00

- This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- For further information, please contact e-GP helpdesk. (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Md. Ashikul Islam)
Executive Engineer (C: C), RHD
Road Division, Magura

GD-714



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CORRIGENDUM TENDER NOTICE
Extension of Opening date for Tender No. 2024/30

Memo No. HO/ITD (IT P & M)/purchase

Date: 29/04/2024

Tender opening date has been changed for Procurement of MICROSOFT CORE CAL of Sonali Bank PLC by competent authority:

Sl No.	Tender No.	As per published in Tender Notice (Newspaper)		As per corrigendum	
		Tender Documents Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Opening/ Closing Date & Time	Tender Documents Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Opening/ Closing Date & Time
01.	2024/30	30/04/2024 14:00	30/04/2024 15:30	21/05/2024 14:00	21/05/2024 15:30

The Technical Specification & other terms related Corrigendum will be published in website/Notice Board of Sonali Bank PLC.

Munmun Mondal
Deputy General Manager

GD-719