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DMP launches AI system to detect traffic violations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic rule violations in Dhaka – including signal jumping, entering closed left lanes, lane violations, wrong-side driving, and illegal parking – will now be automatically detected and reported using an artificial intelligence-based system, with fines sent to offenders by post.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday launched the AI-Based Road Transport Act Violation Detection System, along with eight other software systems, at its headquarters.

Inspector General of Police Md Ali Hossain Fakir inaugurated the systems in the presence of Acting DMP Commissioner Md Sarwar and other senior officials.

Initially, the AI-based traffic monitoring system has been deployed on the stretch from Hotel

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DHAKA, CTG REEL UNDER HEAVY RAINS



Office-goers, students and residents make their way through flooded streets in Dhaka and Chattogram yesterday, as heavy rain triggered widespread waterlogging, disrupting commutes and daily life across the two cities.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN, MEHEDI HASAN



JS RESERVED SEAT 49 candidates to be elected unopposed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday confirmed that 49 candidates are set to be elected unopposed to reserved women's seats in the 13th National Parliament, with the EC set to publish the gazette today.

Of the candidates, 36 are from the BNP-led alliance, 12 from the I party alliance led by Jamaat-e-Islami, and one is an independent.

Md Moin Uddin Khan, returning officer for the reserved seats and EC joint secretary, announced the development at the EC headquarters in Agargaon, Dhaka.

He said under the Jatiya Sangsad (Reserved Women Seats) Election Act, 2004, the election schedule was announced on April 8.

The deadline for withdrawal of candidacy

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Torrential rain submerges port city

Knee-deep water disrupts life; PM apologises to residents

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

Torrential rain, triggered by a steep pressure gradient over the North Bay, submerged low-lying areas of Chattogram for the second consecutive day yesterday, causing immense suffering to residents.

Meanwhile, an elderly woman was killed, and three others were injured when a retaining wall collapsed due to the heavy rainfall in the Shikalbaha area of Karnaphuli upazila in the afternoon.

Amid the situation, during his speech in parliament yesterday, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman apologised to port city residents for the hardship caused by severe waterlogging and assured that efforts are underway to resolve the crisis.

Responding to a point of order raised by Chattogram-10 lawmaker Sayeed Al Noman, he said, "There is severe waterlogging. Naturally, it will take some time to address the issue. For this suffering, I sincerely apologise to all citizens living in Chattogram city. We are trying to resolve

this problem as quickly as possible."

The Chattogram Met Office recorded 59.6 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours until 12:00pm yesterday. Assistant Met Officer Bashir Ahmed attributed the downpour to thunderclouds over the Bay of Bengal.

Due to squally weather and pressure differences in the North Bay, maritime ports in Chattogram were advised to hoist local cautionary signal number 3. Fishing boats and trawlers were asked to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution until further notice.

Vast areas, including Prabartak Intersection, Muradpur, Bahaddarhat,



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Early morning downpour leaves parts of capital waterlogged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Intermittent rain in Dhaka and other parts of the country disrupted school and office commutes yesterday, with many areas going under ankle-to-knee-deep water during heavy morning downpours.

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) yesterday forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall across all divisions over the next 96 hours, warning of temporary waterlogging in low-lying areas.

It also cautioned that landslides could occur in the hilly regions of Chattogram division due to sustained rainfall.

Although total rainfall in Dhaka since Tuesday night was not exceptionally high, the morning saw

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FROM PRESS GALLERY



Family Cards won't strain budget: PM

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday said the government will distribute Family Cards to four crore families in phases, prioritising vulnerable households, arguing that the programme will not place significant pressure on the national budget.

"No government in the world can do this all at once. Data must be collected from everyone," he said.

He added that the government would proceed step by step, aligning budgetary allocations with

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Table US trade deal in JS: Rumeen

STAR REPORT

Independent MP Rumeen Farhana yesterday demanded that the Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART) between Bangladesh and the US, signed just days before the February 12

national election, be brought before Parliament. She said objections had been raised at the time of signing, as the agreement allegedly contained clauses contrary to Bangladesh's interests.

"Yesterday, our commerce minister met the US ambassador, who spoke about the trade agreement," she said.

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Establish Qur'anic law: Jamaat MP

STAR REPORT

Jamaat-e-Islami MP Mujibur Rahman yesterday called for "burying man-made laws and establishing Quranic law" in Bangladesh.

The Rajshahi-1 MP said LGRD Minister and BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir had once said he did not believe in Sharia law, but before the national election, said that no law will be passed against Sharia.

"I thank him for repenting and returning. We want Allah's law. You [BNP] have said you will not oppose Allah's law. Therefore, let us bury man-made laws and establish the law of the Quran in Bangladesh," he said.

Mujibur urged the formation of an Islamic

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Ongoing rainfall raises risk of dengue surge

HELEMUL ALAM

With ongoing rainfall across the country, the risk of dengue transmission is expected to rise in the coming months if authorities fail to take necessary preventive measures, experts have warned.

Data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) show that at least four dengue patients have died and 2,449 others have been hospitalised so far this year, as of April 28.

According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), light to moderate rain or thundershowers, accompanied by temporary gusty or squally winds and lightning, are likely to occur in many areas of Mymensingh, Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions.

A few places in Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions may also experience rainfall, while moderately heavy to very heavy downpours are expected at isolated locations across Mymensingh, Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions. This weather pattern is likely to continue until May 3, the BMD added.

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The situation may be worse than last year. Not only in Dhaka, but in districts outside the capital, conditions could deteriorate further.

KABIRUL BASHAR, Entomologist



Growers are currently busy bagging the diverse varieties of mangoes, including local and foreign, in their orchards across Rajshahi. The owners say this method improves the appearance of the fruit, prevents pest infestation, and eliminates the need for pesticide sprays. The photo was taken at an orchard near Kakon Road in Godagari upazila recently.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Govt hikes prices of soybean oil

STAR REPORT

The government yesterday increased the retail price of bottled soybean oil by 2 percent, from Tk 195 per litre to Tk 199, in view of the rising international price of the highly import-dependent commodity, putting consumers under further inflationary pressure.

Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir yesterday announced the new price after a meeting with edible oil traders, importers, refiners, and wholesalers at the ministry office, according to a statement from the commerce ministry.

The price of five-litre containers of soybean oil has been fixed at Tk 975, and the price of loose soybean oil was fixed at Tk 180 per litre, up from Tk 176 per litre. This decision comes as bottled soybean oil has become scarce in many parts of the country due to reduced supply resulting from a plunge in imports.