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Illegal trade in containers

Thousands of lorries built with shipping containers as customs fails to monitor empty containers; tax evaded

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Cg

If you see a lorry on the street, chances are it was built by bolting a modified shipping container onto the chassis.

It is so common a way to build lorries that Mokbul Ahmed, chief of Bangladesh Covered Van Truck Goods Transport Owners' Association, said, "Most of the lorries, between 96 and 98 percent, have been made with shipping containers."

It costs Tk 2 lakh to Tk 2.5 lakh to construct the body of a lorry with a shipping container, he added.

There is a reason why building lorries with containers is so cheap. It is cheap because it is done by dodging government tax and fees, and it is illegal.

Due to customs authority's negligence and no monitoring, shipping containers -- brought in from abroad and supposed to return with export goods or empty -- are being sold in the local market evading customs duty.

And these are being used for making lorries (also known as covered vans), shops, and temporary housing. The market is worth about Tk 50 crore, said insiders.

More than 100 workshops in Dhaka, Chattogram, Narayanganj, and Gazipur have been selling both used and new, empty containers.

Bangladesh does not make the containers, but there are 34,543 lorries (covered vans) registered with the BRTA as of September 2019.

Shipping agents bring in the containers from abroad either empty or with imported goods mostly through the Chattogram Port. The containers themselves are not goods and they do not require import duty, provided

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Stop selling antibiotics over the counter

DGDA warns pharmacies of action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has warned the pharmacies of legal actions if they continue selling antibiotics without prescription.

In a public notice Tuesday, the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) issued a set of directives for the medicine sellers and advice for the antibiotics users.

The DGDA, the apex drug regulatory authority, issued this notice a day after The Daily Star published a report detailing how antibiotics are still being sold over the counter despite a High Court ruling against the practice.

On April 25 last year, the HC ordered the DGDA to take steps to stop the over-the-counter sale of

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In debt father abets rape of daughter

Father held, rapist on the run

STAR REPORT

Failing to pay off a debt of Tk 6,000, a man let the lender rape his 13-year-old daughter multiple times throughout a year in the capital's Kamrangirchar.

The father, arrested Tuesday morning, used to force his daughter to take sedatives and contraceptives before the lender would rape the girl, locals said.

The alleged rapist, Abul Hossain, 35, owner of a poultry store managed to flee. Police said they were looking for him.

Residents of the neighbourhood learnt what had been going on after a woman of the neighbourhood saw the girl dozing off and slurring her words in front her father's rented tin-shack Monday night, locals said.

As the woman asked her if she was okay, the girl showed her the packs of

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DEMAND FOR DCC POLLS DEFERRAL EC in a tight spot

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission appears to be in a fix as the Hindu community and Dhaka University students continue to demand deferral of the Dhaka city corporations election that coincides with Saraswati Puja, a major religious festival of the Hindus.

EC officials yesterday said they don't intend changing the polls date for Dhaka North and South city corporations, as the High Court rejected a writ petition seeking deferral of the January 30 elections.

They also pointed out that SSC examinations will start on February 1. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, said they would move an appeal before the Supreme Court, challenging the HC's rejection of the writ petition.

"The Election Commission has hurt the religious sentiment of the Hindus... Its rigid stance on the election date is hurting us even more," Rana added.

Contacted, Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam said, "The matter is now lying with court. The High Court has given a directive. But they [the petitioner] will file an appeal [with the SC]. We will abide by whatever the court decides."

"The scope is very limited for us to change the election date. We can't defer it as the SSC exams will start on February 1," he said, adding that different educational institutions will be used as polling centres and they have to vacate those before the SSC exams.

On January 6, SC lawyer Ashoke Kumar Ghosh filed the writ petition

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BNP's DSCC mayor runner indicted

May get 3yrs in jail for not submitting wealth statement

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against Ishraque Hossain, the BNP's mayor candidate for Dhaka South City Corporation polls, in a case over not submitting his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Ishraque, son of late former Dhaka mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam of the Special Judge Court-4 of Dhaka read out the charges.

Before framing the charges, the judge turned

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4 crore could be displaced

PM tells JS about fallout of climate change in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that there was a possibility that around 4 crore people of 70 upazilas in 19 districts might be displaced due to climate change.

She, however, did not mention how many years it might take.

In reply to a query of Awami League lawmaker Shahiduzzaman Sarker, the PM also informed the House that the average temperature of Bangladesh went up by one degree Celsius in May and by 0.5 degree Celsius in November in recent times.

In a written answer, Hasina, also leader of the House, said saline water of sea was now entering up to 100km into the river during summer as a result of climate change.

"The average rainfall has increased. Excessive rainfalls in a short time caused waterlogging in town areas. The trend of cyclone in the Bay of Bengal has risen. The rough sea has

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Russell powers Rajshahi into BBPL final

SPORTS REPORTER

Andre Russell's pyrotechnics dimmed Chris Gayle's majesty as Rajshahi Royals beat Chattogram Challengers by two wickets in a thrilling Second Qualifier of the Bangladesh Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Chasing a stiff target of 165, Rajshahi looked all at sea, losing half their batters by the 15th over and with half the runs yet to get.

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Coloured posters of a Dhaka mayor candidate's campaign cover the pillars and walls near a gate of Ramna Park on Hare Road in the capital. Only greyscale posters hung by ropes are allowed. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ইলেক্ট্রনিক ভোটিং মেশিন (ইভিএম) এ ভোট প্রদান সহজ ও নির্ভরযোগ্য

ইভিএম-এ ভোটার শনাক্তকরণে যা প্রয়োজন

(যে কোন একটি পদ্ধতিতে ভোটার শনাক্ত করা হতে পারে)

১ ভোটার আইডি কার্ড

ভোটার আইডি কার্ড স্ক্যান করে ভোটার শনাক্ত করা হতে পারে।

২ পলিমেটিক ভোটার আইডি কার্ড

ভোটার আইডি কার্ড স্ক্যান করে ভোটার শনাক্ত করা হতে পারে।

৩ ভোটার নাম

ভোটার নাম স্ক্যান করে ভোটার শনাক্ত করা হতে পারে।

৪ আঙুলের ছাপ

আঙুলের ছাপ স্ক্যান করে ভোটার শনাক্ত করা হতে পারে।

ইভিএম-এ ভোট প্রদান প্রক্রিয়া

কন্ট্রোল ইউনিট | **ব্যালট ইউনিট**

ভোট দিন মাত্র দুই বোতাম চেপে

প্রথমে পান্থের প্রতিক্রিয়া পানের সাদা বোতাম চাপুন

ভোট নির্দিষ্ট করতে সবুজ বোতাম চাপুন

* একইভাবে তিনটি পদে ও জন প্রার্থীকে ভোট দিন

ইভিএম এর মাধ্যমে ভোট গ্রহণের সুবিধা

- ইন্টারনেট সংযোগ নেই বিধায় হ্যাকিং এর কোন সুযোগ নেই।
- বায়োমেট্রিক যাচাই ও ব্যক্তির উপস্থিতি বাধ্যতামূলক বিধায় কেন্দ্র দখল করেও ভোট প্রদান সম্ভব নয়।
- জালভোট দেয়া, কেন্দ্র দখল করে ভোট প্রদান, একজনের ভোট অন্যের পক্ষে প্রদান, একবার ভোট দিয়ে থাকলে দ্বিতীয়বার ভোট দেয়া যায় না।
- নির্ধারিত সময়ের আগে মেশিন চালু হওয়ার সুযোগ নেই বিধায় ভোটিংয়ের শুরু পূর্বে অবৈধভাবে ভোটিংয়ের বা প্রদানের সুযোগ নেই।
- পালগোষ্ঠী সংরক্ষিত বলে প্রিজাইডিং অফিসার/সহ প্রিজাইডিং অফিসার ব্যতীত অন্য কারো পক্ষে মেশিন চালু করা সম্ভব নয়।
- কোন অবস্থাতেই অবৈধভাবে ভোট প্রদানের সুযোগ নেই এমনকি ইভিএম খিনতাই করে নিলেও তার সুযোগ নেই।
- বায়োমেট্রিক যাচাই ও ব্যক্তির উপস্থিতি বাধ্যতামূলক বিধায় কেন্দ্র দখল করেও ভোট প্রদান সম্ভব নয়।
- বায়োমেট্রিক যাচাই করে ভোট প্রদান করতে হয় বিধায় পছন্দমত প্রিজাইডিং/সহ প্রিজাইডিং অফিসার নিয়োগ করেও ভোট কারচুপি করার কোন সুযোগ নেই।
- কোন কারণে ভোটার কেন্দ্রে না গেলে বা মৃত ভোটারের ভোট অন্য কারো পক্ষে প্রদান করা সম্ভব হবে না।
- ভোটিংয়ের পর পরই স্বল্প সময়েই কেন্দ্রের ফলাফল ঘোষণা করা যায়।
- ভোট প্রদান শেষে স্বয়ংক্রিয়ভাবে ফলাফল প্রিন্ট ও বিতরণ করা সম্ভব।
- মেশিন ব্যবহারের সর্বোচ্চ সম্পূর্ণ লগ সংরক্ষণ করা হয়।

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