

## Consignment of cosmetics seized at Ctg port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Officials of Chattogram Custom House yesterday seized a consignment of cosmetics.

Customs officials said they would be able to ascertain exact value of the seized product in a day or two.

For the clearing preparation the tax rate are 53 percent while for cosmetics it stands up to 127 percent, officials said.

Dhaka-based Fatema International has declared 24 tonnes of clearing preparation from Thailand, which assigned OSL Trade Pvt Ltd to release the consignment.

Nur-A-Hasna Sanjida Anushua, assistance commissioner of customs, said the importers and C&F agents were announced as clearing preparation.

"We notified the importer and the C&F agent several times to take the consignment after physical examination but they refused to do so every time," she added.



This black-crowned night heron is one of countless birds that are illegally caught, blinded, then sold to restaurants near Sylhet's tourist spots. This one is a native species, but migratory birds are not spared either. This photo was taken in Islampur union of Companiganj upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## Rohingya children to learn in mother tongue

Brac building 50 centres at camps

BSS, Dhaka

After being forcibly displaced from their homeland in Rakhine state of Myanmar, it was like a dream for Rohingya children to get the opportunity to learn in their mother tongue.

Considering their limited access to education, the Nippon Foundation donated US\$ 2 million, with which Brac has launched a project to ensure educational facilities for the children.

Under the project, Brac will build 50 steel-structured two-storey learning centres at Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. This project aims to provide education to 8,000 Rohingya children between four to 14 years. The Nippon Foundation is also supporting Brac to operate 100 pre-primary centres for 3,000 host community children aged between five and six.

Having a learning space in the crisis settlements of Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas is crucial. Parents and community engagement will be prioritised to select the location of the centres and they will be established on community premises.

"I visited the camps to see the ground reality. Once there, I found the situation much more serious," said Chairman of Nippon Foundation, Yohei Sasakawa, "Under such a state, the Bangladesh government is trying to provide humanitarian aid.

"With the partnership with Brac, we will be able to provide more humanitarian support," he added. Brac Executive Director Asif Saleh said about 55 percent of displaced Rohingyas staying in Cox's Bazar are children and they have very limited access to education. Apart from

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## Probe body to look into assault on teens at rehabilitation centre

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

The news of two minors who were shackled to a tree at a rehabilitation centre spread like wildfire across social media recently. The teenagers, aged 16 and 14, were residents of Sheikh Russell Child Training and Rehabilitation Center (SRCTRC), which houses street children and those who are vulnerable. They were reportedly being punished by a senior resident of the centre.

The two were sent to the centre, situated in Barishal city, on December 12 last year, after a jhalakathi court order over a criminal case, although the centre is not supposed to house those accused or convicted of criminal activities.

But the centre that is supposed to rehabilitate these young residents was way off their goal. One of the victims managed to flee following the incident which happened in mid-January. After

a report on this was published, which went "viral" on social media, District Social Service authorities formed a three-member probe committee, led by its assistant director Shahidul Islam.

They were asked to submit a report to the authorities within three working days, confirmed AL Mamun Talukder, deputy director of District Social Service Department yesterday.

Barishal Deputy Commissioner SM Ajar Rahman, also president of SRCTRC managing committee, said authorities found evidence that the incident did occur, after preliminary investigation.

After visiting the centre at the city's Rupatali area, this reporter found that although the centre is supposed to support children return to a normal life, it is devoid of any recreational facilities. The premises are always unsupervised and the building looks abandoned.

Although the entrance should be

gated as per the rules, it was found that no security guard was on duty in front of the main gate. Fifteen staffers are currently appointed under a project director to operate and supervise both centres, said Basu Deb Debnath, assistant project director of SRCTRC. But during the visit, the reporter could only find three.

"The centre was established to only accommodate six to 18-year-olds who are from the streets or vulnerable, for a maximum of two years," said Debnath. "Later, we were informed that two youths were sent to the centre and were then chained and punished by another resident of the facility. We informed higher authorities about the matter."

Debnath acknowledged that four children of the centre, including one of the victims, fled during the last three weeks.

After talking with the boys, it was learnt that at least seven boys went

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## Elderly woman dies in fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An elderly woman was killed in a fire in Kaliash village of Chattogram's Satkania upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Anwara Begum (70), said fire service officials.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit at her house around 2:50am, said Mahbub Alam, warehouse inspector of Satkania Fire Service.

On information, two firefighting vehicles rushed to the spot and doused the blaze around 4:30am.

Anwara could not come out of the house in time. Later, firefighters recovered her body, he said.

The fire also gutted valuables of the house. However, fire service officials could not estimate the amount of damage immediately.

## Rangpur commuters suffer as BRTC service halted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Large number of commuters from Rangpur city and its surrounding areas, who used the double decker buses of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), are in trouble as the service of the state-owned company has been suspended since Monday due to objections from local transport workers.

No BRTC buses plied the streets of Rangpur in the last two days.

Nurul Haq, manager of BRTC depot in Rangpur, said the depot has eight double deckers in Rangpur, which run on different routes including Paglapir-Pirganj and Paglapir-Kaunia. Hundreds of people take these routes by the buses.

The eight buses were kept parked at Central Bus Terminal in Rangpur, this correspondent found yesterday.

According to staffers of BRTC, members of Transport Workers' Union in Rangpur obstructed the BRTC buses at the terminal on Sunday afternoon. They also allegedly assaulted the driver and helper of one of the buses.

Transport workers said their income has decreased since double-decker BRTC buses started running in Rangpur. The depot manager said that they would not operate the double tier buses until the dispute is solved.

Speaker of the parliament Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, also the lawmaker of Rangpur-6, inaugurated the service in May last year with an aim to ease commuters' suffering and fulfil the increasing demand for public transport. But the operation of these buses has been quite chaotic, as workers of private bus companies repeatedly tried to obstruct operation of the BRTC double-deckers at various places in the district.

AKM Azizul Islam Razu, member secretary of Bus Owners Association in Rangpur, said the workers are objecting to the buses plying outside Rangpur City Corporation, as this is affecting their income.

Tajul Islam, a resident of Rangpur, said the fare of BRTC buses is fixed and the buses are comfortable. He commutes to Pirganj

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## Labaid observes World Cancer Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labaid Cancer Hospital yesterday organised a seminar to mark World Cancer Day, at the lecture gallery of Labaid Specialized Hospital.

Like previous years, the day was observed worldwide yesterday, to build awareness around the world on cancer, said a press release. This year's theme for the day is -- "I am and I will".

The seminar was held with a title "Create A Future without Cancer", where Prof Dr Moarrar Hossain, presented the keynote speech.

Among others, Dr SMG Kibria, Dr MA Khan, Prof Dr Miah Mashhud Ahmad, Prof Dr Moriom Faruki, Prof Dr Afzalunnesa Chowdhury, Prof Dr Lt Col Yusuf and Prof Dr Qumruzzaman, spoke on the occasion.

The seminar was presided over by managing director of Labaid Cancer Hospital Sakif Shamim.

To mark the day, officials and employees of the hospital brought out a colorful procession, that started from Labaid Cardiac Hospital and ended at the same place via Labaid Cancer Hospital.

## 8 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Eight people -- including a traffic police officer, and a man and his daughter -- were killed and 21 were injured in road accidents across the country yesterday, report our correspondent and UNB.

An on-duty traffic police constable was crushed under the wheels of a truck on Dhaka-Tangail highway yesterday, reports our Tangail correspondent.

The deceased is Saidul Islam (42) of Charsirta village in Mymensingh Sadar upazila.

Kamal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Elenga Highway Police Outpost, said a north-bound truck ran over Saidul while he was performing his duty at Rabna Bypass area around 8:30am.

Critically injured, he was taken to Tangail General Hospital, where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Police have seized the truck but its driver and helper managed to flee the scene, said OC Kamal.

In Manikganj, a man and his daughter were killed and another of his daughter was injured after a covered van hit their motorbike on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Hedayatul Haque (45) and his four-year-old girl Tazdika Sauda Sara -- from Golra area in Sattaria upazila.

Quoting locals, Lutfur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Golra Highway Police Station, said the Patuaria-bound covered van crashed into the motorcycle around 4:15pm while he and his two daughters were going to the district town from Sattaria. The accident left the duo dead on the spot while injuring Hedayatul's other daughter Taznuba Hafsa (10).

Meanwhile in Bogura, a man and his niece were killed after a sand-laden truck ran over them at Namija Nath area in Sadar upazila around 10:30am, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Palash Sarkar (19) and Moni Barman (10),

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At least nine activists of Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal were injured in a factional clash between followers of Chattogram city unit acting president Fatema Badshah and suspended president Monwara Begum Moni at Kazir Dewri yesterday afternoon. While Fatema alleged Moni's followers attacked her followers, Moni alleged it was a case of local party members resisting outsiders.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



"Photography is the most trusted medium of communication," said internationally-renowned photographer Shahidul Alam at the session.

PHOTO: STAR

## Seminar on citizen journalism at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

A seminar on the usage of visuals in citizen journalism was held at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday. Internationally acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam conducted the session.

The programme was organised by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of RU in collaboration with DW Akademie, Germany's leading media development organisation.

Shahidul delivered a visual presentation on the use of photos and visuals in citizen journalism.

"Photography is a powerful medium. It is also the most trusted medium of communication," Shahidul Alam said in the session.

He also highlighted the problems and crises in the field of photography in Bangladesh. Even though people are influenced by the visual media from a very early age, there is no school or institution in the country that teaches photography from the base level, Shahidul added.

Chairperson of RU journalism department Abdullah Al Mamun presented Shahidul Alam with a ceremonial scarf. The programme was conducted by assistant professor Abdullah Baki.

A workshop on photography by Abir Abdullah was also held at the Media Research Laboratory of the department in the afternoon.

## SSC EXAMS

## Admit cards issued for two disallowed students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Two disallowed students sat for SSC exams in Mymensingh on Monday and yesterday after they allegedly managed to get admit cards with connivance of a board employee.

In this case, the two admit cards were sent to the centre-school concerned instead of the school where they study.

The authorities of Rajendra Kishore Government High School in Gouripur said they had received such cards of two unlisted female students studying at Dowhakhola High School on Sunday, the day before SSC exams started.

Immediately, the centre's secretary Lutfa Khatun informed the matter to Dowhakhola school headmaster Norottum Chandra Roy over cellphone, they added.

After calling the two to the school the same day, the head teacher asked them how they filled in application forms to sit for SSC examinations as they did not pass test exams, said Shahidul Haque, president of school management committee.

The two informed that a man from Gouripur upazila and a clerk of

Mymensingh education board who hails from adjacent Ishwarganj upazila helped them in exchange for money, said Shahidul Haque, also chairman of Dowhakhola Union Parishad.

Headmaster Norottum said, "I immediately informed Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sejuti Dhar about the matter and the girls gave their statements before the UNO."

"I also notified the board authorities on Monday," said the headmaster.

Out of 259 students, 245 were allowed to fill in application forms to sit for SSC exams from his school this year, he said.

Among 14 failed students, the two of humanities group followed illegal means to attend the exams, said Norottum, demanding proper investigation into the incident.

Board Chairman Prof Dr Gazi Hasan Kamal said they formed a three-member probe committee headed by its Secretary Prof Kirit Kumar Dutta and asked them to submit a report within 10 working days. Other committee members are Comptroller Shamsul Islam and Assistant Comptroller