



Hope for faster trade arrives

First container carrying train from India reaches Benapole

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh and India formally started operating commercial container trains yesterday more than two years after the trial run of the service, aiming to boost cross-border trade and business.

The first train, which started from Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR) terminal in Kolkata's Majerhat, carrying 50 containers, reached Benapole Railway Station at 12:25pm, Bangladesh Railway (BR) officials said.

The goods, which include garment fabrics and toiletries, were unloaded at Benapole land port, they said, adding that necessary custom procedures would be followed before transporting them inside the country.

Three railway officials, including the divisional railway manager (Pakshy), were present when the train arrived at Benapole Railway Station, they added.

"We are hopeful that the service will continue," Shafiqur Rahman, director (traffic) of BR, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The development came days after the first parcel train came to Bangladesh carrying 384 tonnes of dry chillies from Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh in the second week of this month.

Besides, the first ship under the trial run of transshipment of Indian goods to its north-eastern states through Bangladesh reached Tripura last week.

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A part of a hill is being cut in Bandarban's Lama for constructing a road despite a government ban on cutting hills. Inset, the signboard of Homeland Planters which is constructing the road. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

LOCKED UP IN KL NHRC asks foreign ministry to help Rayhan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission yesterday wrote to the foreign ministry over Rayhan Kabir's arrest in Malaysia, urging the ministry to provide the Bangladeshi necessary legal support in the Southeast Asian country.

In the letter, the commission also expressed deep concern over a series of steps taking against Rayhan by the Malaysian authorities in the last couple of weeks.

Kazi Arfan Ashik, director (admin and finance) of NHRC, said the commission urged the ministry to provide necessary legal support to Rayhan after "properly scrutinising" the arrest incident through Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

On Friday, the Malaysian immigration department arrested Rayhan, 25, in Kuala Lumpur following

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JP replaces secy general Ranga with Bablu

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Jatiya Party yesterday removed Moshir Rahman Ranga from the post of the party's secretary general and replaced him with Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu.

The JP made the change in a sudden move "to appease the government" as Ranga was vocal against their activities, said party insiders.

The decision came following government "pressure" to remove Ranga from the position, they added.

Such a sudden change in the party's top posts is not new. The JP has a past record of removing its secretary general abruptly even few weeks before a national election.

A JP statement yesterday said that party chairman GM Quader, appointed JP Co-chairman Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu as secretary general replacing Ranga.

Party took the decision as per Article 20/1 (1) of the party's charter, where it said that party chairman would be able to take any decision including expelling or incorporating someone in the party on his own decision.

"I am not dissatisfied with the decision. Party charter gave chairman the power to take such a decision," Moshir Rahman Ranga told The Daily Star regarding his removal.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Help Bangladesh enter UN

July 27, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S APPEAL TO SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

In an appeal to the heads of the governments of USSR, USA, UK, France, Yugoslavia, Japan and India, Bangladesh Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman sought their active support for Bangladesh's membership in the UN. All these countries, which are members of the UN Security Council, have missions in Bangladesh. The Security Council in its meeting next month will in all likelihood take up the issue of Bangladesh's entry to the UN. Bangabandhu had signed this appeal before leaving for London yesterday. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad invited diplomatic representatives of these countries and handed them the letter from the Bangladesh prime minister.

BANGABANDHU ADMITTED TO CLINIC

Bangabandhu has been admitted to the famous London Clinic for treatment this morning. Immediately after arriving at Heathrow Airport, the prime minister was taken to the clinic in a special ambulance. Sir Edward Muir, Queen's Surgeon, examined Bangabandhu and put him under observation. A three-member medical board has been constituted today to examine the Bangladesh prime minister who is suffering from a stone in the gallbladder. The board will recommend the course of treatment.

REMOVAL OF DUTY ON SOME IMPORTS BEING CONSIDERED

The government of India and Bangladesh are considering a

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Pakistan tried to 'backstab' India

Says Modi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said Pakistan tried to "backstab" India despite New Delhi's efforts to keep friendly ties as he paid tribute to the Indian armed forces on the 21st anniversary of Kargil war in 1999.

"India can never forget the circumstances under which the battle of Kargil took place. Pakistan had embarked upon this misadventure, nursing delusions of encroaching upon Indian soil, to distract attention from the internal strife prevailing there.

"India was at that time making efforts to foster good relations with Pakistan," Modi said in his monthly radio address to the nation "Mann Ki Baat" aired yesterday.

"But as it is said, to the wicked, enmity with one

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Norwegian Elvis impersonator sets world record



AFP, Oslo

A Norwegian Elvis Presley impersonator set a world record on Saturday by singing the legendary entertainer's songs for more than 50 hours straight in an online competition.

Kjell Henning Bjornestad, whose stage name is Kjell Elvis, sang non-stop for 50 hours, 50 minutes and 50 seconds, smashing the previous record, recognised by the Guinness Book of Records, by more than seven hours.

The title of the previous Elvis champion, a German by the name of Thomas "Curtis" Gaethje, had remained intact for more than 16 years.

"I'll never do this again", Bjornestad, dressed in

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FAKE MASK SCAM DU suspends Sharmin

STAR REPORT

The authorities of Dhaka University have suspended its assistant registrar Sharmin Jahan, the owner of Aparajita International, for tarnishing the image of the university by supplying fake N95 masks to BSMMU's Covid-19 isolation unit.

The suspension order was issued today, reports our Dhaka University correspondent citing a DU press release.

The release said launching and running a business organisation without taking prior permission from the university authority after being an employee of the educational institution, is not only against the rules and regulations of the university but also against job discipline.

On top of that, she also tarnished the image of the university as she was sued and placed on remand for supplying fake N95 masks to BSMMU's Covid-19

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ROHINGYA MIGRANTS 24 feared drowned off Malaysia

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

A Rohingya migrant is feared to be the only survivor from a boat carrying at least two dozen asylum seekers that is believed to have run into difficulty off the Malaysian coast near Thailand, a coastguard official said yesterday.

Mohamad Zawawi Abdullah, coastguard chief for the northern states of Kedah and Perlis, said the 27-year-old named Nor Hossain was detained by police after he swam to shore on the resort island of Langkawi.

"Based on the information from the

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 27

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:50 8:15
JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Hilsa is being taken to the Fishery Ghat wholesale market in Chattogram for sale yesterday. Fishermen have started getting good catches of the popular fish after a 65-day ban on netting fishes in the Bay of Bengal to ensure smooth breeding of sea fishes.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Australia suffers deadliest day

UK quarantines travellers from Spain after surge in infections; N Korea reports first suspected case

AGENCIES

Australia has suffered its deadliest day from the coronavirus since the pandemic began, with authorities reporting ten fatalities yesterday and a rise in new infections despite an intensive lockdown effort.

The country's Covid-19 death toll rose to 155 and the southern state of Victoria reported more than 450 new infections in the last 24 hours.

A clearly concerned Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said ten people aged between their 40s and 80s had died, of which seven deaths were linked to outbreaks in aged care facilities.

It is the worst loss of life from the virus in Australia since the disease first emerged, according to a tally compiled by AFP.

Australia has dodged the worst ravages of the pandemic so far, logging just 14,000 cases in total -- fewer than many harder-hit countries see in one day.

But a second wave of infections is testing the nation's much-lauded response to the contagion.

The number of new cases has remained stubbornly high in recent days despite five million people in greater Melbourne spending the last two weeks in lockdown.

Still, 459 fresh cases were reported in Victoria yesterday -- up from 357 on Saturday. Around a dozen more were recorded in other parts of Australia.

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