

HARMFUL SANITISER  
ACI fined Tk  
1cr, told to  
withdraw it  
from market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion has fined Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) Ltd Tk 1 crore for using harmful methanol in its Savlon hand sanitiser.

The court also asked ACI to withdraw the product from all markets within 48 hours, said Rab's Executive Magistrate Sarwoer Alam, who led the team during the drive at the company's depot in Dhaka's Mirpur on Sunday night.

ACI had been collecting the product through outsourcing, the magistrate said. A trader of Old Dhaka who supplied chemicals might have provided methanol instead of ethanol, he added, quoting company officials.

All other sanitising products of ACI were found

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No vehicle plying the street -- from the luxurious SUV to the humble rickshaw, and everything in between -- escaped the swelling waves that formed on the capital's Green Road after an off-season rainshower washed over the capital yesterday. Many other roads and alleys of the city had to face similar, if not worse, scenes as citizens were given a bitter reminder of the waterlogging problem that continues to haunt Dhaka.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Just 54mm rain  
swamps Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It took only 54mm rain to turn many parts of the capital into swamps yesterday, disrupting normal life and creating a traffic chaos.

Thoroughfares, lanes and by-lanes were partially or fully submerged in many areas. At places, human waste and dirt came out of sewers.

Most roads in areas including Rajarbagh, Motijheel, Arambagh, Asadgate, Residential Model School, Mirpur, Jhigatola, Hazaribagh, Green Road and parts of Old Dhaka went under ankle-to-waist-deep water due to heavy rain.

According to Bangladesh Meteorological Department, 54mm rainfall was recorded in Dhaka in the last 24 hours till yesterday noon. Some parts of the country including Dhaka may face more rain today, said Abul Kalam, meteorologist of BMD. There is a depression over the Bay of Bengal, he added.

Rain is occurring at different regions due to the formation of cloud over the country, he said. River and inland river ports have been asked to hoist distant cautionary signal-1, he said.

The depression over the east central and adjoining west central Bay of Bengal has moved west-northwestwards and now lies over the same area, and there are chances it may turn into a deep depression. It is likely to intensify further and move in a west-northwesterly direction, BMD said in a special weather bulletin in the morning.

Yesterday, city dwellers had to suffer much due to waterlogging. At places, buses, cars and three-wheelers haphazardly inched forward throughout the day. Many vehicles broke down being stuck in water.

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Cycling for a cleaner city



Jobike is making cycling accessible to those for whom buying or keeping a bike may not be a viable option.

PHOTO COURTESY: SAYMA RAHMAN

MEHRIN MUDDI CHOWDHURY, Star Lifestyle

Afsar Mirza likes to cycle, a lot. He is known to take his two-wheeler out for a ride to Crescent Lake Road, adjacent to the Chandrima Uddyan, and back to his home at Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur. He says it's the burst of sunlight and the light breeze caressing his skin while cycling past familiar roads that draws him to cycle.

However, this experience may not be available for many. For one, owning a bicycle may be beyond their financial capacity, plus there's also the hassle of keeping a bicycle safe and sound.

This is what bike-sharing service Jobike hopes to address. With their "hire and ride" initiative, Jobike has been working to this end since 2018.

In addition, in an era of looming climate crisis, initiatives that lead to the decrease in carbon emissions are highly valued, and biking is one of them.

Sayma Rahman, Head of Retail Partnership, Gramenphone, is an angel investor and business adviser at Jobike. She told The Daily Star, "Cycling is very popular abroad. It is also one of the most convenient forms of transport. It also keeps people healthy, moving and fit."

"If appropriate bicycle lanes are provided by the government, this would mean less commuting time, fewer accidents and less time wasted in traffic. So, we thought, if it is popular all over the world, why won't it work for Bangladesh, which has one of the

most highly congested roads?" Sayma continued. "Bicycles also come in handy during times when you cannot use public transportation, as we've seen during the pandemic."

"Besides personal commuting benefits, we also emphasise small business enterprises that can conveniently manage their supply chains using our cost-effective mode of transport," the investor said.

With DNCC constructing a 9km stretch of road exclusively for bicycle movement in the city's Agargaon area, the possibilities for an easy commute by cycling is becoming more viable.

According to DNCC officials, the bicycle lanes constructed on both sides of the specified road are six feet each, which is above the international standards of five feet for bicycle lanes, thus providing ample space for a "care-free" ride.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Jobike Founder and Chief Executive Officer Mehedi Reza relayed that every Jobike bicycle is GPS enabled and depends heavily on AI-based mobile apps, to ensure "prevention of theft" and "on-demand cycling service".

He also added that the company uses GEO fencing technology, meaning, if any rider goes out of the fence, the team gets notified, and an alert is sent immediately to look for the missing bicycle.

"To make sure our bicycles are available for everyone, Jobike is

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Bangladeshis can't  
return to Italy until  
Dec 31: Momen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Italy will not allow Bangladeshi citizens to enter the European country till December 31, due to "previous behaviour" and fear of a possible second wave of Covid-19, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday.

"This is no good news to me [regarding return of Bangladeshi expatriate workers in Italy]," he said, while talking to reporters at the foreign ministry office.

The foreign minister said he tried to talk with his Italian counterpart on the issue, but they did not get to converse.

According to Momen, Bangladeshi expatriates are largely responsible for this situation, as they had frequently violated quarantine rules of the Italian government.

"Our expatriates are the problem. You know that they don't abide by the law in Italy."

The minister said 48 Bangladeshis who flew to Italy in a flight were suspected to be Covid-19 positive. They were then asked to stay in mandatory quarantine for 14 days in a hotel arranged by the Italian authority, but many of them did not do so.

Then the media picked up the issue and their health ministry put pressure, Momen said.

"Therefore, Italian authorities said they won't receive any flight from Bangladesh. They deported many Bangladeshis

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DEPORTED FROM DUBAI AIRPORT  
Airline directed to  
refund ticket price  
of 104 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dubai airport authorities have deported 104 Bangladeshi passengers -- mostly migrant workers -- on October 11 as Flydubai, a government-owned budget airline, carried them to the UAE without following the country's immigration policy.

After hearing in presence of the passengers and Flydubai authorities on October 11, the Magistrate's Court at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport directed the airline authorities in Dhaka to return the ticket price and Tk 3,500 as compensation to each passenger by October 18, Magistrates All Airport of Bangladesh said in a Facebook post.

The airline authorities have made a written commitment to comply with the order.

Of the 104 passengers, 51 flew from

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BCL LEADER SUDIPTO MURDER CASE

Accused beaten up  
on court premises

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least two people, including an accused in BCL leader Sudipto Biswas murder case, were injured in a scuffle in front of a Chattogram court room yesterday.

The injured are Md Moktar Hossain (32) and Arifur Rahman (22), said police. Of the two, Moktar is an FIR-named accused, now out on bail.

On October 6, 2017, BCL leader Sudipto was beaten to death in broad day light in port city's Nalapara area.

Yesterday, quoting witnesses, police said the incident occurred as Moktar appeared before the Additional Metropolitan Magistrate court on the first floor of the court building. As he was leaving the court room, some youths swooped on them and started beating them up.

On information, police rushed to the spot but the unidentified attackers managed to flee, said Inspector (investigation) Md Kamruzzaman of Kotwali Police Station. He said Moktar filed a case with the police station, accusing several persons.

Moktar said the attack was orchestrated by the other accused in the case, as well as some "big fish" who are also responsible for the murder.

He also claimed that the attack is connected with a recent video interview with an online news portal where he said there are influential people connected with the case and demanded justice for Sudipto through

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DNCC mayor,  
wife infected  
with Covid-19

UNB, DHAKA

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayor Atiqul Islam and his wife Dr Shaila Shagufta Islam have been infected with Covid-19.

Their samples were given for test on Sunday morning. MM Mamun, public relations officer of DNCC told the news agency

Their test results were received that night, he said.

DNCC mayor's APS-2 Rishad Morshed has also been infected with coronavirus.

A high-level meeting called by the LGRD ministry -- regarding the maintenance of canals of Dhaka -- was withheld on Sunday, on account of Atiqul's illness.

STRAY DOGS OF DSCC

No relocations while  
discussion continues

Attorney General tells petitioners at hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday opined that the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) should not continue its move to relocate stray dogs from its area until further hearing of the writ petition filed to this effect.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaque Islam and Justice Mohammad Ali kept the writ petition stand-over (waiting for hearing) for a month, Saqeb Mahbub, a lawyer for the petitioners, told The Daily Star.

The court also asked Attorney General AM Amin Uddin to ensure that the stray dogs are not relocated until further hearing of the petition, he said.

The petitioners' lawyer said during hearing on the petition, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told the HC that a discussion over dog relocation among DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh and other stakeholders is going on. The attorney general said the DSCC mayor is now abroad and will return to the country after two weeks, and prayed to the HC to adjourn hearing of the writ petition.

Saqeb Mahbub said the attorney general assured the HC that DSCC will not continue its move to relocate stray dogs during this period. He also said DSCC cannot relocate stray dogs following the verbal order of the HC.

Attorney General Amin Uddin told the newspaper that he will convey the message to DSCC authorities to not relocate any dogs in the interim.

Mustafizur Rahman Khan appeared for the petitioners.

Celebrated actor Jaya Ahsan and animal welfare organisations -- Obhoyaronyo and People for Animal Welfare -- submitted the writ petition as a public interest litigation to the HC on September 17, requesting it to stay the DSCC move to relocate stray dogs and dump them in the Matuail landfill.



Bangladesh Chhatra Odhikar Parishad brought out a procession in front of the National Museum yesterday protesting extra-judicial arrests and killings, and demanding "release" of leaders of the platform who were picked up by plainclothes men, and two others who had remained missing till then.

PHOTO: STAR

CHHATRA ODHIKAR PARISHAD  
2 leaders arrested,  
remanded in DU  
student rape case

Fellows take to the street  
demanding their release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two out of four "missing" leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra Odhikar Parishad were remanded yesterday in a rape case filed by a Dhaka University student.

Saiful Islam and Nazmul Huda were held on Sunday night, confirmed Rajib Al Masud, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of Police (Lalbagh Division), to The Daily Star yesterday. "They were placed on a two-day remand each," he said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Morshed Al Mamun Bhuiyan granted the remand after DB Inspector Wahiduzzaman produced them before the court with a seven-day remand prayer, he said.

Saiful is the joint convener of Chhatra Odhikar Parishad while Nazmul is vice-president of its DU committee.

Two other leaders of the platform -- Sohrab Hossain and Asif Mahmud -- had been missing till yesterday evening, said Parishad leaders. Both of them claimed

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