



PHOTO: STAR

As dengue fever has spread in the city with the onset of monsoon, a boy and his father launches their own awareness programme for cleanliness and other preventive measures in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

JCD leaders contradict ex-Ramna OC's claim of policemen in hall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four female leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday contradicted the admission by the former officer in charge (OC) of the Ramna Police Station that male police personnel launched the pre-dawn raid at the Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University (DU) on July 24.

Former OC of the Ramna Police Station Lutfor Rahman on Saturday admitted to the judicial commission that male police forces entered the Shamsunnahar hall in the small hours of July 24.

He had also said that he entered the hall at 3.30 am with his force, while denying the charges of verbal or physical abuse of female students during the raid.

He also said that he was even

Announcement

The Daily Star will serialise personal experience of the turbulent fortnight on Dhaka University campus by Professor Fakhrul Alam of English Department on Focus page from

DCC runs dry on larvicide

Dengue situation feared to aggravate; ministry puts doctors on high alert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the dengue infection set to take a turn for the worse, the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is helpless to check the situation as its stock of larvicide is now empty.

Entomologists at the DCC have said a large number of Aedis mosquitoes have laid zillions of eggs during the fresh rain and the eggs would soon hatch to aggravate

the situation.

Chief Health Officer of the DCC Dr Ashraf Ali told The Daily Star yesterday that the corporation has not yet received an approval to import 8,000 litres of larvicide to kill mosquito larvae.

"We are hoping to receive the approval from the plant protection and the public health departments by

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Corporate funds flow into political pockets

78pc firms pay political parties, CPD research reveals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 78 per cent of the corporate houses give donations to political parties or candidates and more than 80 per cent workers are frustrated with the activities of the trade union leaders, according to researchers.

The findings were presented at a dialogue on 'Corporate Responsibility in Bangladesh:

Where Do We Stand', organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) at CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director, Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, research director, and Dr Ananya Raihan, research fellow of the CPD, conducted a research on the topic, the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

With Syed Manzur Elahi, mem-

ber of the CPD Board of Trustees and chairman of the Apex Group, in the chair, the dialogue was attended by Md. Lutfor Rahman Khan, state minister for labour and employment, as chief guest. Policymakers, corporate executives and trade union leaders participated in the dialogue.

Dr Debapriya termed corporate responsibility a new area for

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Wheat 'scam' probe on

REAZ AHMAD and ANWAR ALI

The government has sent an investigation team to Bogra and Pabna yesterday to probe the alleged wheat procurement scam.

The food ministry constituted the team led by a joint secretary amidst allegations that armed criminals forced food department officials to procure low quality Indian wheat at a higher price, depriving the local wheat growers. This has forced the government to suffer a loss of at least Tk 100 crore.

"We've sent a team that also includes a chemist. If the probe finds the allegation true, we'll track down the culprits and take immediate actions," Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman told The Daily Star yesterday.

The probe committee will submit its report by August 14.

"We have extended the time for

Govt loses some Tk 100cr on low-quality grain purchase

78pc bought in ten days at one silo

Quality of procured grain not tested

Armed 'BNP men' drive away silo officer

rice and paddy procurement by a month due to heavy rainfall (from July 31 to August 30)," said Noman. "We did not do the same in the case of wheat procurement. But the drive has been suspended due to the allegations."

Meanwhile, a quick inquiry by the Pabna district administration has revealed that 78 per cent of the 12,000 metric tons of wheat purchased at the Muladuli silo in Pabna was procured during the last 10 days of the four-and-a-half-month long wheat procurement drive. Moreover, the purchase was made without quality testing by the

testing inspector of the silo. Some armed men chased the inspector away from his office Saturday.

Field reports gathered by The Daily Star's northern region roving correspondent revealed that some middlemen and influential allegedly belonging to the ruling BNP forced the government silos in Rajshahi region to purchase a huge quantity of low quality Indian wheat.

The bona fide growers had little chance of selling their wheat to the government procurement centres.

The Indian wheat meant for poultry feed was sold to the Bogra Sadar upazila local supply depot

(LSD) and Muladuli central supply depot (CSD) in Pabna, alleged officials at the Rajshahi food directorate.

Till July 31, the last day of the purchasing programme, about 268,800 metric tons of wheat was bought at a rate of Tk 9,000 per ton.

High officials at the Rajshahi regional food directorate told The Daily Star that the government allocated Tk 278.28 crore to purchase 309,200 metric tons of wheat directly from the growers.

"Had the same amount and quality of Indian wheat, which was collected at different food silos, been imported from India, it would not have cost the government more than Tk 128 crore", said a high food official.

While the government purchased the wheat at Tk 9,000 a ton, the same quality grains are available

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Treasury bench whip's APS held for Agargaon murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four persons including Assistant Personal Secretary (APS) of Treasury bench Whip Rezaul Bari Dina were arrested yesterday in connection with Saturday's double murder at West Agargaon in the city.

They are APS Mostafizur Rahman, his father Abdul Bari Mandal, Shahana and her husband Moahamad Selim.

Abul Kashem Billal, general secretary of BNP unit at ward No. 41 and Abdul Wahab Munna, a restaurant owner at West Agargaon were killed by unidentified gunmen

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Western pipeline Consortium likely if ADB refuses fund

UNB, Dhaka

The government hopes that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will give it more time in deciding the issue of gas export, otherwise a consortium could be an alternative measure for funding the multimillion-dollar western-region pipeline project.

"In case the ADB refuses to fund the 250-million-dollar project, a possible alternative could be forming a consortium for its implementation," State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharrif Hossain told UNB yesterday.

He was talking about what the government can do if it couldn't fulfill the condition of exporting 300

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ETV case SC extends its stay order till Aug 24

BSS, Dhaka

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday fixed August 24 for hearing the review petition challenging its (Appellate Division's) order regarding ETV case.

The full court of the Appellate Division fixed the date to hear the review petition and extended its stay order regarding ETV case till that date.

On July 2 the Appellate Division rejected the leave to appeal petitions of ETV upholding the High Court verdict regarding the case.

However, the court accepted an application from ETV for staying the order and gave the private TV channel privilege to file review petition within the next five weeks.

Yesterday, Barrister Rafiqul Haque on behalf of ETV submitted before the court that they were yet to receive the certified copy of the order of the Appellate Division regarding leave to appeal petitions and prayed for further three months' extension of the stay order.

Attorney General AF Hasan Arif expressed his apprehension that the privilege granted by the court might be abused for narrow political purpose.

The court, however, ordered supply of the certified copy of the

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Not good enough Bangladesh fare better but SL win



PHOTO: AFP

Tushar Imran (R) sends the ball racing to the boundary as Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara (L) looks on during yesterday's first one day international at Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo.

SPORTS REPORTER

After the two-Test battering Bangladesh fared reasonably well in the first one-dayer against Sri Lanka that the hosts won by five wickets at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground yesterday.

The visitors scored a decent 226 for eight after Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud won the toss and took a bold decision to bat first. It was Bangladesh's highest score against Sri Lanka beating the 193 for eight in the 2000 Asia Cup in Dhaka.

But the total was not enough to contain Sri Lanka, who, retaining a full strength side after resting a number of key players in the second Test, raced to 228 losing five wickets in 44.4 overs.

Opener Marvan Atapattu led the chase with a compact 83 after two cameos from skipper Sanath Jayasuriya and Kumar Sangakkara. Jayasuriya smashed a typically aggressive 40 of 32 balls that included six fours and a massive six over point. Sangakkara started from where Jayasuriya had left off clobbering 29 off 23 balls with six fours.

With both the left-handers toying with the Bangladesh attack, Sri Lanka reached 100 in just 14.2 overs. Sangakkara was caught at mid-wicket by Naimur Rahman off medium pacer Khaled Mahmud.

Man-of-the-match Atapattu was cruising towards another century before being undone by a direct hit from Monjurul. The stylish right-hander struck eight boundaries and a six in his 154-ball stay at the wicket.

Earlier, Bangladesh openers Al-Saharri and Mohammad Ashraful played enterprising cricket in a 38-run stand for the first wicket.

Al-Shahriar was looking impressive with some deft shots off his pads. But the lack of footwork ultimately cost his wicket after he scored 25 with the help of five fours. He chased a wide delivery from Dilhara Fernando and ended up offering a tame catch behind the wicket.

Ashraful started slowly but gradually picked up the pace hammering two sixes including a gorgeous pull off Dilhara over the deep square leg boundary. But the young batsman was out playing an ambitious

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Pak HR groups press govt for full apology

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's human rights groups have stepped up a campaign to demand a full apology by its government for excesses during the 1971 war which led to the creation of Bangladesh, activists said yesterday.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has renewed a campaign to press for an apology following President Pervez Musharraf's visit to Dhaka last week.

Musharraf was the first Pakistani military ruler to visit what was once part of Pakistan since the bloody independence war, which is referred to here as "the dismemberment of Pakistan."

He twice expressed regret for his country's military "excesses" in the war, which Dhaka says claimed three million lives. Islamabad refutes the Dhaka toll as wildly exaggerated, but will not disclose figures of its own.

HRCP chairman Afrasiab Khatak welcomed Musharraf's statements of regret but said it did not go far enough.

"That is not enough. What we are calling for is a full apology to the Bangladeshi people," he told AFP.

HRCP and more than a dozen other rights groups took out a newspaper advertisement over the weekend reiterating their demand for an apology.

"Through the advertisement campaign we are sending a message to our brothers and sisters in Bangladesh that civil society in Pakistan does not endorse what was done by the military," Khattak said.

Bangladeshi also say that 250,000 women were raped by Pakistani soldiers. Pakistan's military says the figure is impossible because only 90,000 troops were deployed.

At a banquet hosted by Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Tuesday Musharraf said Pakistanis "share with their fellow brothers and sisters in Bangladesh profound grief over the parameters of events of 1971."

"We feel sorry for this tragedy and the pain it caused to both our peoples."

However he stopped short of meeting the demands of Bangladeshi

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