



The pond at Bayezid Bostami Shrine (top) was cleansed of toxins last week through pumping out water that was contaminated after unscrupulous elements poured poisonous chemicals into it on May 11, endangering the lives of turtles living there for years. To save the rare species, the authorities shifted them to other ponds by truck the next day (bottom left and middle). Visitors feed the turtles (bottom right) after they were brought back to the pond last week.

Turtles return home

Probe body asks authorities concerned to keep a watch on the visitors entertaining the turtles with foods in the shrine pond

NURUL ALAM

The turtles of rare species who fell sick from poison on the pond of the shrine of Hazrat Bayezid Bostami have returned to their abode recently and started life anew.

Over 600 turtles were moved to three other ponds in the neighbourhood as the unidentified miscreants pour pesticide into the pond of the holy shrine on May 11, official and shrine committee sources said.

Those turtles have been shifted to the host pond of shrine in two phases few days ago after the pond was filled with fresh rainwater.

They are the objects of worship to the followers and devotees of the medieval Persian holy saint Hazrat Bayezid Bostami.

Sultanul Arefin Hazrat Sultan Bayezid Bostami came to this

port city of Chittagong some 1200 years ago and the turtles are fairies and genies considered as incarnations of the holy man's followers.

The water of the shrine pond became polluted following the poison attack. The polluted water was pumped out of the pond and rainwater stored up after treatment to allow a comfortable habitation of the turtles, committee sources said.

"Water of the pond is now safe for the turtles as it were treated," said Tapan Dey, divisional forest officer of Forest Research Institute.

"We hope life of the turtles will not be threatened anymore," Tapan added.

"The turtles at this pond of the holy shrine again began to draw attention of the devotees. Initially, they took very little food provided by the devotees, but in two days they became

normal," said Khurshid Alam, a member of the committee.

"I think due to relocation, the turtles took time to adjust with new water of the pond," he added.

Meanwhile, the probe body on the poison attack submitted its report to the local administration last week.

The report said that the pesticide was poured into the pond with a motive to kill the rare turtles.

It suggested the authorities concerned to take measures to check pollution of pond water and keep a watch on the visitors entertaining the turtles with foods.

Police were deployed to guard the shrine pond after the poison attack that made most of the turtles sick and left huge fishes dead.

Mugging on rise in city

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN RIAD

Incidents of mugging increased at an alarming rate in the port city of Chittagong in last one month.

But Chittagong Metropolitan Police failed to arrest most of the criminals during the period.

Mainly, the rickshaw passengers and the pedestrians were target of the muggers, sources said.

Some organised gangs of muggers attacked the rickshaw passengers and the pedestrians at different points in the city including GEC crossing, Sholoshahar area, Almas Cinema Hall, Dampara CNG refuelling station area, Jamal Khan crossing, Chatteswary road, DC Hill area, Momin Road, Station Road, Agrabad and Badamtali area.

Besides, many incidents of

mugging remained unreported.

A gang of muggers stabbed photojournalist Sohel Rana of the daily Bhorer Kagoj indiscriminately at War Cemetery area as he refused to give his camera, cell phone and other valuables. He was going to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for treatment.

Muggers snatched a mobile phone and a vanity bag of Selina Akhter, a first year student of Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science of Chittagong University, near the busy Sholoshahar station on June 24. The muggers numbering four to five who came in a CNG-run autorickshaw, snatched her mobile phone and vanity bag at around 2:30pm when she was waiting for rickshaw.

Sohel, a rickshaw passenger,

was robbed of Tk 4,000 in cash and a mobile phone in front of the Chittagong College gate at around 9:00pm the same day. The muggers also stabbed him as he tried to resist them. He was rushed to CMCH in a critical condition. Sohel was going to his residence at Bahaddarhat during the incident.

"Police were on duty at the Hazi Mohammed Mohsin College playground, few yards from the spot, but did not come to nab the criminals," Sohel said. Muggers took away Tk 60,000 from Faridul Alam, an official of a non-government organisation-Hira, at Pahartali CDA market rail gate on June 22. Faridul was going in a taxi to deposit the money at the head office at Bakalia.

Moreover, muggers stabbed Chandan, a first year student of

MES College, and snatched a mobile phone and some money from him while he was travelling by a rickshaw near DC Hill area the same day.

A college teacher was mugged just in front of Khulshi police station on June 19. Tahmina Khanam, associate professor of Government Women's College, came under the attack at around 5:00pm. The snatchers who came in an auto-rickshaw halted her rickshaw and took away her handbag.

Two snatchers were caught by the mob while fleeing after snatching belongings of a rickshaw passenger at Ashkar Dighirpar area on June 18.

Two other incidents also occurred at Chandanpura and Rahattarpul areas under Bakalia thana the same day. An engineer

lost his some valuable transcripts during the mugging at Chandanpura while Sumon, a six-year-old child, sustained bullet injuries as the snatchers opened fire at Rahattarpul.

On June 17, armed criminals snatched away Tk 1.70 lakh from the officials of Orion Lab and Infusion at the WASA intersection area.

Bhola Mia, 40, a van driver of a food processing factory, was shot dead by the muggers. The muggers also took away the money he collected from the agents at Kali Hat area under Pahartali thana on June 11.

A top CMP official said that a drive was underway to arrest the criminals and police were put on alert at different points in the city to check mugging.



Every year the monsoon brings woes to the people living along the river Shankha at the coastal upazila of Banshkhali, Chittagong. The river turns into a nightmare for them as it devours huge lands on the both of its banks in the rainy season, leaving many homeless. But the authorities seem indifferent to the onslaught of the river. Timely measures can protect the lands and homesteads from the erosion this year, local people said.

the week that was



An All Party black flag procession led by Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury paraded the city streets on Wednesday protesting insufficient allocation for the port city in the national budget.

Indian traders meet CCCI leaders

Indian small entrepreneurs urged the members of Chittagong chamber to participate the small entrepreneurs' conference of Saarc countries in Kolkata to be held on December 1 to 3.

The Indian entrepreneurs will also organise an exhibition of their products during the conference.

They held a 'Buyer-Seller' meeting with

members of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) in the port city on Tuesday.

DB Ghosh, leader of 21-member delegation, said that Indian Federation of Association of Cottage and Small Industries would organise the conference and exhibition in collaboration with Indian Ministry for Small Industry, the government of West Bengal and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

"The conference will discuss greater range of bilateral trade interests including

feasibility of setting up of joint-venture industries, technological know-how, technology transfer to develop small industry, elimination of existing tariff and non-tariff barriers and introduction of balanced trade system in this region," DB Ghosh said.

He emphasised establishing of a 'sub-regional close-knit' group or 'common forum' to boost trade and commerce in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) countries.

CCCI President Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury drew attention of the visiting

team to the huge trade imbalance between Bangladesh and India and sought their cooperation in reducing it.

Assistant Indian High Commissioner Ashoke Das, chamber vice president Monzur Ul Amin Chowdhury, directors Syed Jamal Ahmed, Mahfuzul Haq Shah, Nasiruddin Chowdhury, Mahbub Alam, Kamal Mostafa Chowdhury, woman entrepreneur Monwara Hakim Ali and president of Bangladesh Jewellers Association Shafique Ahmed also attended the discussion.

CSE introduces OTC

With a view to safeguarding the investors' interest and helping small and medium industries flourish, Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) introduced Over The Counter (OTC) module transaction, a new field for stock market activities, here on Sunday.

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Dr. Mirza Azizul Islam inaugurated the OTC as the chief guest at the CSE conference room.

Dr. Azizul Islam said that OTC would benefit the companies who issued the shares, but did not offer their securities for public subscription.

CSE President Habibullah Khan presided over the inauguration ceremony.

CSE Chief Executive Wali Ul Maroof Matin made the address of welcome. Sufi Mizanur Rahman and Monsoor Alam also spoke.

CSE Vice-President ASM Nayeem gave the vote of thanks while CSE Officer Sonia

Hossain briefed about the OTC activities.

CCC opens 2nd unit of CNG station

The second unit of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) CNG Refuelling Station at Dampara opened here on Sunday.

CCC installed the new unit equipped with a 1-MG capacity generator at a cost of Tk 3.5 crore.

With the new unit the Refuelling Station would now be able to supply Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to some 3,500 CNG-run vehicles daily with eight vehicles in every two-minute, sources said.

While inaugurating the new unit Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said that CCC installed the CNG refuelling centre aiming at achieving satisfaction and confidence of the consumers. As such, to continue uninterrupted service even during the loadshedding it was equipped with a generator, he said.

Local CCC Ward Commissioner Md. Giasuddin presided.

Involve the disabled in dev work

A workshop titled "Inclusion of disabled group in the poverty alleviation strategic paper" was held at Shilpakala Academy auditorium here on Tuesday with a call to

involve the disabled in development activities.

International development agency of Action of Disability and Development (ADD) organised the workshop.

Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian was present as chief guest at the workshop. Muhammad Idris, assistant editor of local daily the Dainik Purbokone, Ahsadul Alam, a Dhaka University teacher, and Professor AMM Toha were special guests.

Chittagong Judge Court APP Advocate Khademul Islam Chowdhury presided.

Mini Safari Park inaugurated in Bandarban

A Mini Safari Park inside the tourist spot of Meghla was inaugurated in Bandarban on Friday.

Deputy Commissioner, Bandarban Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, inaugurated the park as the chief guest releasing a *Maya Harin* (a rare species of deer).

The park has been set up on some two acres of land inside Meghla beside Bandarban-Keranirhat road that increased attraction of the tourist spot. Two Goyals and several *Maya Harins* were released at the park earlier while different species of fruit and forest-grown trees were already planted.

District administration organised a function marking the inauguration with Additional Deputy Commissioner Dilwar Bhokta in the chair.

Runa Chowdhury and her group enthralled the audience with Kathithak dance (a popular classical dance of this sub-continent) at a dance evening organised by School of Oriental Dance at Shilpakala Academy auditorium here on Friday.



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