

Mobile court raids City Group factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court raided the factory of The City Group of Industries in the Konabari area of Demra and found them mixing used and dirty pet bottles with the raw materials of new ones.

The City Group of Industries produces the Teef brand of grocery products, including soybean oil, flour, and jeebon mineral water. But their environment was satisfactory, sources present with the court said.

The court also raided the Rubi bread and biscuit factory in the Doyaganj area of the city, which runs their business without any permission of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions (Bsti).

The court found that they pile their products on the floor just beside the urinal and toilet.

"When we reached there, we found one of the workers was peeing at the urinal just beside a pile of unpacked biscuits," said a member of the court.

The workers of the factory were also wearing very unclean clothes.

Later they raided the Delowar Hossain bread and biscuit factory and found them producing three to four brands of bread and biscuits, including Montaz bread, Ittaydi bread, and Dolphin bread. But they do not have the permission of BSTI. The environment of the factory was also very unhygienic.

The court filed cases under the BSTI act and issued warrants against the owners, Lokman Hossain Patwary and Md. Delwar Hossain respectively.

At last the court raided the factories of The City Group of Industries and found them making pet bottles by mixing the plastic of old bottles with the raw materials of new ones.

The court filed a case against them and ordered their factory manager, Robin Lood, to attend the court on September 22.

Another three mobile courts raided different restaurants and food producing units and filed a total of 24 cases and realised a total of Tk 1,73,000 from them.

CONTEMPT OF COURT HC orders Prof Dilara Hafiz, 2 Others to appear in person Oct 22

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday ordered three high officials of Directorate of Education, including its director general Prof Dilara Hafiz, to appear in person before the court on October 22 to show cause as to why punitive measure should not be taken against them on charge of contempt of court.

Two other respondents are: deputy director of Directorate of Education Mafijuddin Ahmed Bhuiyan and its assistant director Obaidul Kader Miraj.

After hearing a writ petition filed by seven lectures of Nakol Sammiloni Degree College of Jessore, the High Court on August 15 ordered the respondents to pay the petitioners' Monthly Payment Order (MPO) from January this year.

The respondents did not implement the High Court order till September 13.

The petitioners filed a contempt petition against them yesterday.

Senior advocate ABM Nurul Islam assisted by advocate Afifa Begum moved for the petitioners.

2kg cocaine seized at Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized two kilograms of cocaine worth about Tk 2 crore and arrested three people from a house near Patura Ferry terminal in Manikganj yesterday.

A special team of Rab-4 recovered the cocaine at about 6:00pm and arrested the house owner Mojibar Rahman, 35, Habil Uddin, 35, and Showkat Hossain, 58.

Earlier, the Rab members, acting on a tip-off, visited the house in the guise of drug buyers and negotiated the price of the cocaine, sources said.

Pepsodent-Drishty Debate Festival begins today

CU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day debate competition titled 'Pepsodent-Drishty Debate Festival' begins at the local Shilpakala Academy today.

It has been organised by Drishty, a cultural organisation.

Former President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries Farid Ahmed Chowdhury will inaugurate the competition at 11:00am.

Today's sessions include final round of inter-school parliamentary debate, UN debate, English debate, court debate and comedy debate.

A cultural programme will follow the debate sessions.

Tenants make two landlords unconscious, loot valuables

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two couples made their landlords unconscious by mixing toxic substances with their food and then looted valuables from their rooms in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

The house owners, Abdul Baten, 50, a teacher, and Laila Khaleda, a housewife, and their nine family members are now undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A couple who rented a room at the house of Abdul Baten at South Dhania in Shyamapur only three days ago have been missing from the house since the incident.

On Tuesday night, Abdul Baten along with his family members fell

unconscious after having their dinner.

In the morning, Jahangir, who resides in the same house, saw the landlord's room open. He then went inside only to find the room ransacked, a steel almirah broken and everybody in a deep slumber.

He also found that the new tenants of the house were not in their room, making him suspicious of their involvement.

Jahangir along with some neighbours then rushed the seven members of Baten's family to the hospital.

The family members said 10 tols of gold, cash as well as some other valuables were also missing from their room.

In a similar incident, Laila Khaleda, her two daughters and one

son fell unconscious after drinking milk at their house at Mirpur Section-2 at around 10:30pm on Tuesday.

Khaleda's brother-in-law Dulal Hossain said when he went to their house the next morning he found all of them lying senseless and also discovered that the tenant couple was not in the house.

He said the tenants had not paid the house rent for three months and had been under pressure from Laila, whose husband lives abroad.

"It seems they mixed something with milk to make them unconscious so that they can flee the house without paying rent," he added.

No cases have been filed with the police as of the filing of this report last night.



A mobile court raids the Delwar Hossain Bread and Biscuit factory at Doyaganj in the city yesterday, which runs without any permission of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions (Bsti).

'Ensure birth registration for all children'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday called for ensuring birth registration for all children.

The birth registration is essential to ensuring child and civil rights, preventing early marriage, eliminating child labour and issuing passports and other documents, they said.

In Bangladesh, 67 lakh children, out of six crore, have been registered so far, the speakers said at the launching ceremony of the Universal Birth Registration of Plan Bangladesh at the LGED Bhaban in the city.

They also said 41 percent of 50

million children born a year worldwide do not have birth registration and 98 percent of them are from developing countries.

Children without papers are denied of their rights and legal entity, and national plans and strategies may not match population requirement if births are not registered, they added.

Speaking as the chief guest, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan stressed the need for local government's involvement in the process to ensure that all children are registered.

The Plan Bangladesh helped Moghul Union of Lalmonirhat district achieve 100 percent coverage in terms of birth registration.

It has also been working in Dinajpur, Nilphamari and Gazipur.

Plan's approach enables children's voices to be heard and that's why it works with children to build a better world.

Zinnat Afroz, social development advisor of Plan Bangladesh, said lack of awareness among the people is a major obstacle to the registration programme.

Representatives from Unicef, Union Parishad chairmen and government officials also spoke at the ceremony.

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2 outlaws lynched in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two members of the Janajuddha faction of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were lynched by a mob in Khulna yesterday morning.

The dead were identified as Babu alias Ripon, 30, of east Bania Khamar and Amir Hossain alias Badsha, 28, of West Tootpara of the city.

According to police, the outlaws went to the Atahar Heart & Medical Centre in the guise of patients to realise toll from its owner Dr Anisur Rahman. They threatened to kill him and blow his clinic up for refusing to pay Tk 50,000 as demanded earlier.

Sensing trouble the patients and pedestrians caught the outlaws and

beat them up. They were declared dead when taken to Khulna General Hospital.

Police said the outlaws used to extort money from Dr Anis in the Janajuddha founder Dada Tapan for the last one year. They demanded Tk 50,000 from him 15 days ago.

Ripon was sentenced to two years' imprisonment by Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal on February 19 this year on charge of extortion.

The bodies of the outlaws are kept at the morgue of Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Dr Anisur Rahman filed an FIR (first information report) in the afternoon accusing the slain outlaws of giving him death threat.

Bomb found at Keraniganj school

BDNEWS, Keraniganj

A joint team of police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered a live bomb from a classroom of Tegharia High School under Keraniganj thana yesterday.

Police and locals said a girl student during class noticed an object wrapped in red polythene at about 12:00 noon and immediately informed it to the class teacher.

The headmaster informed the nearby Keraniganj police about the matter.

Later, police recovered the live bomb and defused it.

The bomb had a time control device and a red light was on while being recovered by members of the police, sources said.

As the news spread classes in other schools in Keraniganj were suspended.

BCU strike in Ctg observed partially

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The strike protesting price hike of education materials called by the Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) Chittagong district unit was observed partially yesterday.

The BCU activists went to different schools in the port city in processions and staged demonstrations during the strike hours.

Later, the BCU leaders at a rally said the price hike of paper and other educational materials would discourage the poor students in study.

Due to the price hike, the monthly educational expense would increase upto Tk 200 for each student, they said. It was threatening dropping out of many poor students, they added.

BCU vice-President SM Eusuf Sohel, General Secretary Sujan Nandi, Chittagong University Organising Secretary Kamrul Islam and Rajib Banik spoke at the rally.

OPTICAL FIBRE LINK Body to probe allegation against former BTTB chairman

BDNEWS, Dhaka

At the directive of the Prime Minister, a three-member committee was formed to investigate the allegation of the departmental case against the former chairman of the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) Engr Nurul Islam, concerned ministry sources said.

Secretary Mahmud Hassan Monsor asked the committee on September 5 to submit its investigation report within 60 consecutive days.

The committee headed by Ashfaq Hamid, additional secretary of the Finance Ministry, comprised of Mujibur Rahman Howlader, Joint Secretary of the Establishment Ministry and Mujibur Rahim, Joint Chief, Telecommunications Ministry.

The Cabinet Division scrutinising documents found that the then chairman Nurul Islam was responsible for manipulating the bid for the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar optical fibre link project.

He was also found responsible for wasting government fund worth \$37 million by not taking maintenance deal from the Siemens and Huawei Technologies in the BTTB's mobile project, the sources said.

Bangladesh had to pay an additional amount for the after-sales service to the equipment vendors as a section of the BTTB officials, including Nurul Islam intentionally did not avail the after-sales service while signing the equipment deal.

In the submarine cable tender, the chairman headed the bid evaluation committee and picked Siemens, although it made the highest price offer of Tk 49.60 crore, as the bid winner brushing aside the lowest bidder Nortel, which offered a price of Tk 33.80 crore.

Because of the role of the BTTB chairman, Bangladesh's access to the information superhighway is now being delayed by about six months.

Later, Nurul Islam was made OSD (officer on special duty) on July 22 at the Ministry of Establishment for his alleged controversial role in a number of telecoms projects.

Govt hatching conspiracy to ban Urs

Say Dargah-Mazar leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Dargah-Mazar (Shrine) Federation yesterday said the government is hatching a conspiracy to ban the holding of Urs mahfil (religious gathering) at different shrines in the country.

They condemned a government circular that calls for previous permission from the deputy commissioner, superintendent of police and upazila nibahi officer for holding the Urs.

Terming the circular as 'Black Act', the leaders threatened to launch tougher movement if the government does not withdraw it within 15 days.

They alleged that the government is trying to undermine the thousand year's tradition by comparing the Urs mahfil with jatra (traditional village theatre), village fair and animal fair.

The leaders were speaking at a representatives' conference of the federation at the National Press Club Auditorium in the city.

Speaking as chief guest, Federation Chairman Alhaj Syed Nazibul Boshor Maizvandari said the government is sheltering the militants who carried out bomb blasts at different shrines in the country.

He demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the culprits who carried out serial bomb blasts.

He also urged all Peers, Alemas and Olamas including the devotees to be united under the platform of the federation to resist the Jamaat and its accomplices to save the country's freedom and sovereignty.

A committee was also formed at the conference with Alhaj Syed Habibul Boshor Maizvandari as convener, and Prof Shahjada Asraul Haque Chistee, Shahjada Maulana Fakir Moslem Uddin and Lion MA Awas as joint-convener.

After the conference, a procession was brought out that paraded different city streets.

Cheholum

Cheholum of Prof Hamida Rahman, wife of late Siddiqur Rahman, will be held at her husband's village home at Jonudpur at Joygaon in Begumganj after Zohra prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

All have been requested to attend the cheholum and pray for the departed soul.

Prof Hamida died on August 14.

HC rule nisi on cattle market in Dhaka streets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The petitioner also said animal slaughter in open places pollutes the environment severely and causes sufferings to the people.

The petition said the people's movement is hindered during the Eid-ul-Azha due to cattle markets on the streets. This violates the article 36 of the constitution.

The rule nisi was issued as Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, a non-government organisation, filed a petition to the HC, seeking remedy against cattle markets on the city streets and removal of animal remains 24 hours into slaughter.

The lawyer of the petitioner said the articles 69 and 71 of Metropolitan Police Ordinance, 1976 ensure punishment for cattle slaughtering in public places, but the authorities are not taking