

Ship owners threaten to stop carrying goods from Ctg port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three lighter vessel associations yesterday threatened to stop loading, unloading and carrying of goods from Chittagong port and its outer anchorage from October 14 if measures are not taken to unload the wheat from 24 vessels now stuck at the port channel.

At a press conference at the National Press Club in the city, leaders of the associations said due to disagreement among the importer, exporter and shipping authority, unloading of the wheat could not take place in last eight months.

The associations are Coastal Ship Owners Association of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Cargo Vessel Owners Association and Inland Vessel Owners Association of Chittagong.

The associations leaders said mother vessel MV Celtic reached Chittagong port on February 27 with 26,500 metric tons of wheat which was loaded to 30 lighter vessels.

Of them, only six were unloaded, they added.

The exporter filed an admiralty suit with the High Court praying for unloading the wheat from remaining 24 vessels, and the court ordered the authorities concerned to unload the wheat under the supervision of the customs authority.

But in stead of taking steps to unload the wheat, the customs authority sought a stay order from the



PHOTO: STAR

Three cargo vessel owners' associations held a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Supreme Court by submitting wrong information, alleged associations leaders.

Since then the vessels have been left in the salt water, and as a result these could sink any time due to corrosion and rusting closing the port channel.

Associations leaders said the market price of 24 vessel is about Tk 100 crore beside the carrying cost and demurrage of about Tk 35 crore.

"We therefore urge the authorities concerned to give attention to solve

the problem immediately," they added.

Coastal Ship Owners Association of Bangladesh President Md Tajul Islam, Bangladesh Cargo Vessel Owners Association President KM Mahmudur Rahman and General Secretary Gazi Md Belaet Hossain, Inland Vessel Owners Association of Chittagong General Secretary Shafiq Ahmed, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Vice-president MA Latif were present at the press conference.

Nirmul launches white paper on minority repression today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ekattarer Ghatk Dalal Nirmul Committee, a forum for the elimination of the killers and collaborators of 1971, will launch a 'White Paper on Minority Repression in 1500 Days' today.

The 2760-page white paper contains reports, post-editorials, columns and commentaries published in different newspapers and photographs and documents of various human rights organisations on the minority repression.

Advisor to the Nirmul Committee Binod Bihari Chowdhury will be present as the chief guest at the ceremony beginning at 3:00pm at the VVA Auditorium in the city. Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity President Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma will be the special guest.

Abdul Jalil, general secretary of the Awami League, Rashed Khan Menon, president of the Workers Party, Monzurul Ahsan Khan, president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, and Prof Ajoy Roy of the South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism will take part in the discussion.

The objective of launching the white paper is to put an end to all forms of violence, repression and discrimination against the religious minority and ethnic communities and to establish human rights, the committee said in a press release.

Appeal to help ailing journo Abul Bashar

BDNEWS, Dhaka

BSS-Terminated Journalists' Forum in a statement yesterday appealed to the affluent people of the society to extend financial help to the ailing former senior reporter of BSS Abul Bashar.

In a statement, terminated journalists of the government-run news agency said that Bashar was one of the 27 journalists who fell victim to the vindictive politics of the alliance government and were terminated from their jobs.

They urged all to extend co-operation to Bashar who is suffering from serious liver disease.

Harun Habib, Enamul Hoque Chowdhury, Ajit Kumar Sarker, Azam Sarwar Chowdhury, Afzal Hossain, Halim Azad, Kanai Chakrabarti, Shahnaz Begum, Nure Jannat Akhter Seema, Mahfuza Jesmin, Abu Nasir Rajib, Madhusudan Mandal, Ayub Bhuiyan, Swapan Basu, Bithi Zaman Chowdhury, Obaidul Gani and Md Al Mamun signed the statement.

Protibhar Onneshan begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A talent hunt programme titled 'Protibhar Onneshan' began at Tejgaon Church Community Centre in the city yesterday.

The six-day programme, organised by Dhaka Christian Students' Welfare Association, includes competitions in drawing, general knowledge, Tagore song, Nazrul song, instrumental music and recitations.

The competitions are open only for the children of Christian community reading from class one to class 12.

Inaugurating the 30th programme as chief guest Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said all children irrespective of their religious faith must be groomed properly as they are the future of the country.

He said a vested quarter always wants to disturb the communal harmony in the country for its own interest.

The minister praised the association for organising such activities that help flourish talents of children and youth.

Speaking as special guest Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiran, chairman of Debate for Democracy, said Protibhar Onneshan programme was so popular that it inspired late president Ziaur Rahman to launch 'Natun Kuri', another talent hunt programme in BTV.

Assistant Vice-president of ATN Bangla and child organiser Tashik Ahmed, Director of Bangladesh Youth First Concern (BYFC) Peter Halder, President and General Secretary of the organisation Shuvo Michael Rodrix and Sukhen Gomez, Suman Benzamin Costa and Madhobhi Cruise also spoke on the occasion.

Dhaka Christian Students' Welfare Association was established in 1970 and started its talent hunt programme 'Protibhar Onneshan' in 1975. The closing as well as prize giving ceremony of the competition will be held on October 14. State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haq Milon is expected to be the chief guest at the function.



PHOTO: STAR

The Dhaka City Corporation bulldozes unauthorised structures at Segun Bagicha in the city yesterday.

ETV chairman says vested group trying to tarnish his image

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ekushey Television (ETV) Chairman Abdus Salam in a press release yesterday said a vested quarter, failing to take over ETV, is trying to destroy his image and reputation through propaganda about his personal life.

Salam said the vested quarter, in connivance with his former wife Farzana Shilpi, has been plotting and implicating him in false cases.

Farzana Shilpi filed a case against Salam with Kafil Police Station under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act for torturing and attempt to rape.

Salam claimed all the allegations Shilpi brought against him were false and she plotted the whole matter with her mother, Maya Begum, when she [Shilpi] was in USA. He also said Shilpi spoke of a plot to kill him. Salam claimed to have the recorded tape of their conversation.

"The vested quarter has captured my house by making a false story with the help of my former wife and they have destroyed valuable documents including share documents of ETV," Salam said.

"The quarter has tried its best by all means to capture ETV and has failed in each and every step," he continued, "now they conspire with her [Shilpi] only to capture ETV."

CCCI chief seeks remedy to power, water crisis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Acting President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) SM Nurul Haque yesterday sent a fax message with seven-point suggestion to the government demanding immediate remedy to the erratic power supply and acute water crisis during the Ramadan and Durga Puja.

"The port city is now facing serious load shedding, for which the production in industries and smooth operation of trade and commerce are being disrupted beyond any imagination," the message read.

"Due to the crisis, the 100 per cent export-based readymade garments and industries that produce perishable items have been the worst sufferers, much to the worry of country's economy," the CCCI leader said in the message.

"Bangladesh may lose many of its foreign buyers as well as markets abroad if we can't get rid of the current situation owing to the shortage of power and water," he said.

As for interim steps, Nurul Haque suggested not supplying power generated by the Kaptai hydroelectric plant and Raozan plant to the national grid before meeting the local needs.

He demanded immediate implementation of the government decision to establish 50 power plants with 10MW to 50MW capacities, which he said, can contribute to some extent to mitigate the power crisis.

11 more in hospital with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) reinforced its drive against Aedes mosquito population by spraying larvacide and adulticide in certain areas of the city where the residents were reported to have contracted dengue.

The DCC in a press release yesterday said 11 new patients were admitted to various city hospitals with dengue infection. Fifteen patients were released out of 48 from various hospitals after being treated for dengue, the press release read.

The DCC in a bid to contain dengue said spraying of the insecticides have been intensified in dengue prone areas

of Mirpur, Tejgaon, Sabujbagh, Green Road, Malibagh, Jatrahari and Demra.

The DCC claimed that there is no growth of Aedes population in the city due to routine spraying. The DCC, identifying the dengue patients admitted in various city hospitals and clinics, is taking quick action to spray adulticide in and around the residences of the patients, the press release said.

The DCC urged all residents of the city, particularly the people living in dengue prone areas, to practise cleanliness and to prevent accumulation of water in small containers or reservoirs in and around their houses where the mosquitoes usually lay eggs.

Dab expels two members for occupying doctors' room

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (Dab) yesterday decided to expel two of its members and permanently cancel their membership on charge of damaging the image of the association.

The Dab took the action against Dr Rabiul Azam Pappu and Dr Sheikh Md Abu Zafar for occupying a doctors' resting room at the emergency ward of Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital in the city on October 7 in the name of Dab, said a press release.

The Dab took the decision at an emergency meeting yesterday and said it has no link with the incident of occupying the room and hanging the portraits of late president Ziaur Rahman and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the room, which has been reported in various newspapers.

Such act by the two physicians of the hospital has tarnished the image of the association, the press release added.

Dab President Dr AKM Azizul Haque presided over the emergency meeting.

Death anniversary



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Prof Moammad Tawhidul Anwar, former Director General of Press Institute of Bangladesh

(PIB) and Professor of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quran Khatam and doa mahfil will be held at his residence at 59/H, Isha Khan Road at the Dhaka University residential area after Asr prayers.

Moizuddin Ahmed



Today is the second death anniversary of agriculturist Moizuddin Ahmed, former additional director of Agricultural

Extension Department, Training wing, says a press release.

On this day in 2003, he died of a sudden cardiac arrest.

Family members of late Moizuddin sought blessings from all for the eternal peace and salvation of his departed soul.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Anisur Rahman Khan, retired assistant general manager of Agrani Bank, will be held at his residence at

Dream Tower at 72, Siddheswari in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Anisur Rahman passed away due to cardiac arrest at Lab Aid Hospital in the city on Friday at the age of 63.

He was buried at the Banani graveyard the same day.

He is survived by his wife and two sons to mourn his death.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina consoles the wife of slain Jubo League leader Mostaq Hossain Sentu, a victim of last year's August 21 grenade attack, at an Iftar party at the party's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

Hasina takes Iftar with FFs, Aug 21 victims' family members

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday attended an Iftar in the city with orphans, freedom fighters and the family members of the August 21 victims and injured.

Hasina, also Awami League (AL) president, exchanged pleasantries with the victims' family members while a pall of gloom descended the Iftar party as Hasina enquired about their condition.

A special munajat was offered at the Iftar party at the Dhanmondi office of the AL president praying for the salvation of the departed souls and peace and prosperity of the country.

Twenty-two people, including AL leader Ivy Rahman, were killed and more than 400 injured on August 21 last year grenade attack on the AL rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

Zillur Rahman MP, Jubo League leader Mostaq Hossain Sentu's widow Irene Sultana, his daughter Afsana Ahmed and his mother, two sons of Rafiqul Islam alias 'Ada Chacha' -- Mamun and Pallab, daughter Maya and grandchild Afroz, Abul Kalam Azad's widow Maqsuda Azad, his children Al Amin and Mahfuza Azad, Ratan Sikder's widow Nurat Jahan and two children -- Ananda and Apurba, Sheikh Hasina's personal security guard Mahub's widow Shamima, two sons -- Asif and Robin, were present at the Iftar party.

Hasina, who herself bursts into tears, embraced them and consoled the family members.

Earlier, Hasina also exchanged pleasantries with Dhaka City AL leaders and workers at another Iftar party at a community centre in front of her party office at Dhanmondi.

HYGIENE DRIVE Mobile courts fine Tk 11 lakh, files 355 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty mobile courts led by magistrates fined about Tk 11.18 lakh and sentenced a person to seven days of imprisonment, filing as many as 355 cases for unsafe foods in restaurants and shops, as well as for irregularities in transport services in different areas of the city yesterday.

A mobile court of Shyampur police station fined Deshpriya Mistanna Bhandar, Amir Mistanna Bhandar and Sagir bakery Tk 50,000 each for producing and selling adulterated foods.

Another court of Motijheel Police Station fined three restaurants and a

bakery in the Fakirerpul area Tk 20,000 after finding that they mix toxic colours with foods and keep an unhygienic environment.

The court also fined a fast food shop in the same area Tk 15,000 for selling foods without any expiry date on the packages.

The Khilgoan Police Station mobile court sentenced a driver to seven days imprisonment for having no driving license.

Another mobile court fined a mustard oil factory at Nakhalpara Tk 50,000 after finding it producing oil by mixingsesame.

Besides, the mobile courts also fined a number of people for producing and selling iftar items openly along the roadsides. The courts also sent two buses with faulty engines to the dumping site.

In the last three days, the 35 mobile courts, including five stand-by ones, have so far collected Tk 39,73,125 in fine money and sentenced nine people to different terms.

Muazzin arrested on charge of raping schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The police arrested a Muazzin of a mosque at Siddhirganj in Narayanganj on Saturday on charges of raping an eight-year-old schoolgirl.

Police said Habibur Rahman, 22, Muazzin of Baitun Noor Jame Masjid at Uttar Ajibpur, raped the girl on the second floor of the mosque on Saturday evening.

A case has been filed against him under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Congratulations

Prof Dr Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, a chest diseases specialist, has obtained FRCP from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh recently, says a press release.

He is the chairman of International Institute of Integrated Medical Science.

Author of 11 books on medical science, Dr Iqbal also a presenter of 'Prescription', a health programme on BTB.