

DRIVE AGAINST ILLUMINATION

Ctg traders detain magistrate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hundreds of traders of a multi-storied shopping mall in the port city yesterday detained a Power Development Board (PDB) magistrate for about an hour protesting disconnection of electricity to the market.

The magistrate Mohiuddin Al Faruk was released after reconnection of power to VIP Tower Shopping Mall at Kazir Dewri area of Kotwali thana.

Witnesses said the incident occurred at around 3:30pm when magistrate Al Faruk along with some PDB men and police went to the market and switched off the power line on

charge of 'excessive illumination' defying a recent government order. Over 250 shops of the market have immediately plunged into darkness.

This made the market traders angry who argued that they were using a generator and not the PDB line for the illumination. They urged the magistrate to resume the connection. As the magistrate refused to comply, the agitated traders lost temper and detained him inside their market association office room.

At around 4:30pm, magistrate Al Faruk ordered the PDB men to reconnect the power line to the market and came out of confinement.

"I just obeyed the government order but the traders got unruly. A departmental inquiry into the matter would decide our next course of action," the magistrate told journalists.

Office secretary of the market traders' association Saifuddin admitted that they had been using PDB line for the illumination until last week.

"The magistrate came to our market about a week ago and warned us about using electricity for illumination from PDB line. After that we stopped lighting in the market and resumed it on Tuesday after installing a generator," he told The Daily Star yesterday evening.



PHOTO: STAR

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia offers munajat at an Iftar party organised by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

36 ships fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The mobile court of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) in its two-week drives till yesterday fined 36 ships including two foreign vessels Tk 6 lakhs for violating law and operational discipline.

CPA magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury conducted the drives and awarded the penalty under the port law and liner movement law for over-loading, lack of legal documents and disrupting the movement of foreign vessels.

The court fined three oil tankers MT Sonar Kamal, MT Chandra Dwip and MT Bay Bridge for polluting the river water by dumping petroleum wastages. The court also fined two foreign vessels MV Q C STAR and MV YICKZAO for the same guilt.

Construction of Dhaka-Ctg expressway begins next yr

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The construction work of Dhaka-Chittagong expressway will begin next year.

This was informed at an inter-ministerial meeting at the Communications Ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

Azimat Consortium, a Malaysia-based international investment firm, proposed to the government to implement the four-lane 210 kilometre-long expressway project at an estimated cost of 896 million dollar.

The meeting said that the expressway would be a separate route to Chittagong from the capital via Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Chandpur,

Laxmipur, Sonagaji, Sitakunda and Hathazari.

Every lane of the expressway would be 3.5 metre (12 feet) wide and it would be an eight-lane highway in future.

The CCTV cameras will be installed in several points of the expressway to ensure safety and security.

Besides, there would be arrangements for parking point, toilet, leisure room, prayer room and food court. Short flyovers will be constructed at several places.

The Malaysian consortium comprising six construction firms has agreed to bear all the costs of the expressway.

Indian sarees, lungis worth Tk 50 lakh seized

UNB, Feni

The BDR jawans seized a truck loaded with Indian sarees and lungis worth about Tk 50 lakh from Muradnagar in Chittagong on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway early yesterday.

BDR sources said the smuggled goods include 2,182 pieces of Indian sarees and 720 pieces of lungis.

The seized goods will be deposited to the Customs office.

Alleged kidnapper beaten to death in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mob beat an alleged kidnapper to death as he tried to flee from the police in the port city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Khorshed, 28, son of Abdus Sobhan of Dharmapur under Patiya upazila.

According to sources, Double Mooring police arrested Khorshed on Tuesday night on charges of abducting

his business partner Mamunur Rashid for a ransom of Tk 10 lakh on Sunday.

At around 5:00am yesterday, the police took Khorshed to Pashchim Madarbari in search of his accomplices. As he tried to escape at an opportune moment, local people caught hold of him and beat him up.

Critically injured Khorshed was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Students donate tiffin money to cancer hospital

A group of students of Summerfield International School of Mohammadpur yesterday donated Tk ten thousands to the Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) saving their tiffin money, says a press release.

Thirty senior students of the school visited the AMCH at Mirpur in the capital and donated the money to the authorities.

They passed some time with the patients and asked the doctors different questions on cancer.

Prof Dr MA Hai, director of AMCH gave answers while Assistant Director Ali Afzal, Marketing Manager Forhad Alvi, Programme Officer of Dhaka Ahsania Mission AJG Mortuza Pannu Mian were present.



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