

MOBILE COURT DRIVE CONTINUES

Ayurvedic medicine co sealed off, cosmetic factory, 3 hotels fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two mobile courts yesterday sealed off an Ayurvedic medicine factory for producing low quality medicines, unearthed a fake cos-

metics factory and fined three hotels in the city.

In a drive in Fame Pharmaceuticals at Shyamoli in Mipur, the court found them manu-

facturing medicines for skin and sexual diseases including piles and fissure using low quality raw materi-

als. Led by Metropolitan Magistrate Rokon Ud-Doula, the mobile court did not find any of the ingredients

written on the label of the medicine except few bushy plants and barley inside the factory.

The court collected samples and sent them for laboratory tests before filing three cases including one under Special Power Act 1974 against Khairul Bashar, Motiur Rahman and Sahidul Islam.

In another drive, the same court unearthed a fake perfume manufacturing and distribution company at Shahjadpur in Gulshan.

Owner of Safkat Cosmetics, Sharmin Rashid was found manufacturing fake perfumes there.

Sharmin also markets those fake perfumes in the city using the names of world famous brands on the label.

At first she claimed that these were imported from abroad but she could not produce any paper in support of her claim.

The court fined her Tk 2 lakh. Meanwhile another mobile court led by Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rauf Khan fined the owners of three restaurants in Jatrabari for unhygienic environment in their kitchens.

The court fined Khandaker-11 Tk 30000, Janani Hotel Tk 15000 and Rawshan Hotel Tk 20000.



LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal speaks at a consultation workshop titled 'Industrial pollution and environmental compliance in the greater Dhaka watershed' at a city hotel yesterday.

2 drown, one commits suicide in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A girl and her brother drowned in a pond and a farmer committed suicide at Sitakunda in Chittagong on Monday.

Sources said Rozina Akhter, 8, and Fahim Uddin, 6, accidentally fell in a pond while playing beside it in city's Isanagar area under Karnaphuli Police Station on Monday evening.

Locals rushed them to CMCH where the on duty doctors declared them dead.

Their father Siraj is a day labourer, hailed from Tujmuddin in Bhola district.

Meanwhile, a middle aged farmer poisoned himself in East Bakkhali area at Sitakunda in the early hours of Monday.

The victim was identified as Nurul Alam, 45, son of Islam Mia.

'Rokeya Chair' introduced at DU

BSS, Dhaka

The University Grants Commission (UGC) yesterday decided to introduce a "Rokeya Chair" to commemorate the contributions of Begum Rokeya to emancipation and development of women in the country.

The decision was taken at a meeting held at the UGC Bhaban with UGC Chairman Professor Dr M Asaduzzaman in the chair.

As per the decision, the Rokeya Chair will be attached to the Women's Studies Department of Dhaka University. The holder of the Chair will be a distinguished scholar and the incumbent will draw Tk 30,000 as remuneration per month with other allowances of Tk 25,000 per year.

The scholar will prepare a research report annually and deliver at least two public lectures organised by the UGC. The tenure of the position is two years. The age limit of the scholar is 65.

Meanwhile, the UGC nominated 12 applicants from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal for the Saarc chair.

UGC members Prof Dr M Mahbub Ullah, Prof Dr Md Sultan Hussain, Prof Dr Tareque Shamsur Rahman and Prof Dr Ehsanul Haque and UGC Secretary Mohammad Muffakker were present at the meeting.

DHAKA
TODAY

Workshop

World Food Programme organises a workshop on 'Dynamics of food and cash: impact on livelihoods of the extreme poor'. Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 8:30am.

Discussion

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka will hold a discussion on promotion of trade and economic cooperation. Venue: Chamber Building. Time: 11:00am.

OUTSTANDING BILLS, REVENUE

Joint forces realise over Tk 469 cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joint forces in their drives in nine districts under the jurisdiction of 9 Infantry Division of Bangladesh Army, realised over Tk 469.13 crore in outstanding utility bills and revenue and recovered about 690 acres of government lands in last two months since the declaration of the state of emergency in the country.

Of the amount, over Tk 139.87 crore in electricity bills, over Tk 256.14 crore in gas bills and over Tk 31.45 crore in telephone bills were

realised from Narshingdi, Narayanganj, Madaripur, Dhaka (excluding metropolitan area), Munshiganj, Shariatpur, Manikganj and Rajbari districts.

Of them, the highest amount of recovery was made from Narayanganj where Tk 149.91 crore in gas bills, over Tk 58.72 crore in electricity bills and over Tk 29 crore in telephone bills were realised.

Narayanganj also topped the list in the recovery of government land with 197 acres of land.

Among the individual payer, Savar plant of Beximco Group topped the list with the payment of Tk 4 crore in outstanding gas bills.

During the drives, the joint forces arrested at least 679 accused persons and recovered 35 firearms from these districts, said a spokesman of the division.

Besides, the joint forces recovered a total of 2,29,000 kg of fake fertiliser and three pharmaceutical factories, seized 1327 pieces of CI sheets, closed down five illegal medical centres/clinics and five food factories in these districts.



Poet Jasimuddin's death anniversary today

Today is the 31st death anniversary of poet Jasimuddin, popularly known as Palli Kabi, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and daylong programme will be held at the grave of the poet at Ambikapur in Faridpur.

Bangla Academy, Bangladesh Television, Betar, Kabi Jasimuddin Hall of Dhaka University, Kabi Jasimuddin Abriti Academy and other cultural organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes to mark the day.

Writing workshop at Brac Centre today

A daylong workshop titled 'Integrating academic writing and critical thinking in a learner centre environment' will be held at Brac Centre in the city today against the backdrop of increasing needs of effective writing skills at the tertiary level, says a press release.

The workshop aims at addressing pedagogical issues relating to academic writing while focusing on various technical subtleties and means to make academic writing more effective.

Dhanmondi OC submits petition to show Adity arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Dhanmondi Police Station yesterday submitted a petition to a Dhaka court for showing a detained employee of private television channel 1 Adity Sengupta arrested under Section 16(2) of the Emergency Ordinance 2007.

Adity was arrested on December 31 last year for her alleged involvement in criminal activities and later she was given a one month's detention under the Special Powers Act on January 22. The law enforcement agencies are investigating the charges brought against her.

The forwarding report placed before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka said that Adity was financially benefited being directly or indirectly involved in crimes like corruption and tender bidding of Giasuddin Al Mamun, managing director (MD) of channel 1.

Besides, she assisted Mamun in committing crimes, including corruption and had got involved herself in those crimes for financial gains. So, the process is underway to file a case against her to detain her in jail custody until the investigation is completed, the report added.

But the petition for showing her arrested will be placed before the court today for taking next steps.

Bail petition of Chowdhury Alam rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected the bail petition of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ward Commissioner Chowdhury Alam in a criminal case filed in December last year.

The case was filed against DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and 2,000-2,500 unknown people for damaging and setting ablaze a motorbike and a microbus in front of the returning officer's office at Segunbagicha on December 26 last year.

On February 22, the CMM ordered to send Alam to jail after he surrendered before it for taking him into safe custody.

Alam, also president of Ramna unit BNP, allegedly amassed huge wealth in the city as a ward commissioner who looked after construction and allocation of most markets of the DCC.

Businessmen and DCC sources said Alam took around Tk 1 crore from Karwan Bazar business leaders for his role in persuading the DCC top executives to construct a wholesale vegetable market in a children's park.

Alam is also one of those who whitened black money amounting several crore during the rule of the BNP-led four-party coalition government.

There are also allegations against him for collecting tolls from more than 4,000 hawkers in Gulistan area.



Maja Dhun Daruwala, director of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiatives (CHRI), based in New Delhi, speaks at a discussion on 'Right to Information Act' organised by The Daily Star at its office in the city yesterday. She spoke on various aspects of the Right to Information Act, including the Indian experience regarding the act. Civil society members, editors and journalists attended the discussion.

7-point recommendation for free, fair election

Manabadhikar Commission team meets CEC

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of Bangladesh Manabadhikar Commission (BMC) yesterday called on Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Dr ATM Shamsul Huda at his office and placed a seven-point recommendation for holding the next general elections in a free and fair manner. The delegation, led by BMC Chairman and former CEC Justice AHK Sadek, recommended enacting a law barring the bank loan defaulters from contesting elections. It suggested rescheduling of the default loans one year ahead of

the elections.

The delegation included BMC advisers Amanullah Khan and ASM Badruddoza and its Secretary General Saiful Islam Dildar.

The delegation members said there should be a law, which will allow government officials, both civil and military, to contest elections only after three years of their retirement.

They also recommended increasing the number of election tribunals so that the electoral disputes could be resolved within six months. They suggested that the EC should have powers to cancel the candidature of anyone violating the electoral code of conduct, even after the elections.

The recommendations also include compulsory registration of political parties and disclosure of candidate's profile.

Extending their support to the current activities of the reconstituted Election Commission and its law reform measures, Justice Sadek hoped that the electoral laws should be immediately made operational.

According to a member of the BMC delegation, the Election Commission (EC) informed they are thinking of issuing national identification cards for next general elections, but it would take time.

He quoted CEC Dr. Huda as saying the reconstitution of the EC would not go far enough to make it independent of the sway of the head of the government for lack of any constitutional provision. The council of advisors has no mandate to amend the constitution for the purpose.

During the meeting the CEC was non-committal about the possible

date of the elections. It would take about one and a half-year to introduce voters' ID card, he was quoted as saying.

Election Commissioners M Sohul Hossain and Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain were also present during the meeting.

Farmers block highway in Mymensingh for fertiliser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Hundreds of farmers yesterday blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Churkhai Bazar in Sadar upazila demanding supply of fertiliser.

Police and local sources said the farmers from Narayanpur, Bhavakhali, Nehalia-Kanda, Chakban Pathalia, Borovilla and Sutiakhali villages gathered in front of a dealer's shop at the bazar in the morning to buy fertiliser.

As the dealer could not supply fertiliser to all the farmers gathered there due to shortage of stock, the farmers became agitated and put up a barricade on the highway at 7:00am, disrupting traffic for two hours.

The farmers withdrew the blockade following an assurance given by the administrative official to meet the demand for fertiliser within three days.



People hurry their way down the stairs at TK Bhaban at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday after a small fire breaks out in the building.

Bangladeshi student nominated for Global Young Leaders Confce

BSS, Dhaka

The Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC), a Washington-based organisation of global scholars, invited meritorious Bangladeshi student Shafayet Khan to attend its 2007 conference to be held in Washington and New York next summer.

Shafayet Khan, son of insurance personality Anwar Hossain Khan and Rowshan Ara Begum, is an A-level student of the Bangladesh Institute of Management Studies (BIMS) having scholastic merit and distinguished leadership.

Valuables worth Tk 1cr looted in N'ganj

Robbers looted valuables worth Tk one crore from a textile mill and injured seven of its workers in Provakardi area at Araihazar in Narayanganj yesterday early hours.

Police sources said around 20/25 robbers entered AH Fabrics and Sizing Mill and held seven of its night guards at gunpoint. They then tied up 23 workers who were working in the night shift.

Sharp weapons of the robbers injured a total of seven workers and night guards. The injured are Nur Islam, 40, Sumon, 30, Pronoy, 25, Sagar, 65, Roni, 28, and Shafik, 22. They were admitted to a local hospital.

The robbers left the scene after two hours.

Local BNP leader Abdul Karim Kushum is the owner of the factory that was established in assistance of Sonali Bank.

Officer in Charge of Araihazar Police Station Kazi Mahfuzul Karim said they have started investigating into the robbery.

A total of 10 employees have already been arrested for interrogation, he added.

However, no case was lodged in this connection till filing of this report.

PRICES OF ESSENTIALS

Make sure that no one can create panic

Army chief asks officials

UNB, Pabna

Army Chief Lt General Moeen U Ahmed has urged the administrative officials to make sure that no one can create panic by cashing in on prices of essentials.

He also urged them to remain alert in curbing corruption.

General Moeen was addressing a meeting of the district officials at the local circuit house yesterday.

Official sources said the army chief was apprised of the overall situation of Pabna district. He called for working together for the welfare of the people.

GOC of Bogra region, DC, SP, civil surgeon and senior officials of the departments concerned attended the meeting.

Later, the army chief held a meeting with military officers in charge of the district under the state of emergency and other officials concerned.

Expat donates medical equipment for cancer hospital

Badrul Amin, an expatriate Bangladeshi living in London, donated medical equipment to Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital at Mirpur in the city, says a press release.

The equipment are Criticon Dinamap Vital Signs Monitor, PC 60 Finger Probe Pulse Oxymeter, Huntleigh Foetal Monitor (with ear piece), Keeler Ophthalmoscope/Otoscope Set and Peak Flow Meter.

Martin Sharley, chairman of DAM UK Charity, handed over the equipments to Prof M A Hai, director of the Hospital, at the Mission office at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday on behalf of Amin.

M Ehsanur Rahman, deputy executive director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and David Fair, Zina Fair and Sally Morgan of DAM UK Charity were also present.

Dr Hai thanked Badrul Amin for his noble gesture. He also requested the expatriate Bangladeshis to assist Dhaka Ahsania Mission in whatever capacity they can in its continued efforts for developing necessary infrastructures for world-class cancer treatment facilities in Bangladesh.

Former MP Sirajul Islam passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

Principal Sirajul Islam, former lawmaker of Netrakona-5 constituency and principal of Purbadhala College in Netrokona, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence at Purbadhala on Monday night at the age of 70.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. He was buried at his family graveyard at Dhala yesterday evening following a namaj-e-janaza at Purbadhala College playground.

Netrokona political leaders expressed deep shock at the death of Sirajul Islam. He was elected MP from Netrakona-5 constituency in 1986 and 1988 from Jatiya Party (Ershad).