

DRIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL CLINICS LAUNCHED

Huge stolen govt medicines seized in Rajshahi

STAR REPORT

Joint forces yesterday seized huge quantity of stolen government medicines and medical equipment of two upazila health complexes, while another team of the forces launched drive against illegal clinics and realised Tk 85 thousand in fines.

Our staff correspondent in Rajshahi reports: Joint forces yesterday seized huge quantity of stolen public medicines and medical equipment of Tanore and Charghat upazila health complexes.

The seized items include 56 boxes of 100ml saline, 12 boxes of 50ml saline, 20,000 pieces of disposable syringe, 18 boxes of Ampicillin BP and 300 pieces of Penicillin capsules.

The joint forces arrested Tanore Upazila Health Officer Dr Mofizul Islam, Residential Medical Officer Dr Rezaul Islam and three other

staffs in connection with irregularities.

Other arrestees are - Storekeeper Dulal Chandra and Cashier Azizul Haq of Tanore and Storekeeper Abdul Momin of Charghat health complexes.

A team of joint forces along with the District Civil Surgeon Golam Mortuza visited Tanore Health Complex and seized the medicines and medical equipment worth Tk 70,000 from an abandoned residential quarter.

The seized medicines and equipment were not shown in official stock register, said the police.

Another team of joint forces raided Charghat Health Complex and found major differences between the stock register of medicines and real stock.

Concerned authorities instructed the upazila health officer for taking departmental action against Senior Staff Nurse

Humayra Nazma for the irregularity.

Meanwhile our Rajshahi University correspondent reports: Army led joint forces launched drive against illegal clinics, diagnostic centres and private hospitals in Rajshahi city yesterday and realised Tk 85 thousand in fines for providing medical services without proper documents.

The team led by a first class magistrate raided six illegal clinics and diagnostic centres at city's Laxmipur areas.

The team fined City Diagnostic Centre Tk 40 thousand, Shapla Diagnostic Centre Tk 10 thousand, Care Nursing Centre Tk 10 thousand, Care Diagnostic Centre Tk 20 thousand, Desh Diagnostic Centre Tk 3 thousand and Zaman Pathology Centre Tk 2 thousand.

The forces also launched drive against Modern and North Bengal Cityscan Diagnostic Centre yesterday, sources said.



President Iajuddin Ahmed, top left, and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, top right, place wreaths at the grave of BNP founder and late president Ziaur Rahman in the city yesterday to mark his 26th death anniversary. (Bottom) A policeman checks the approved list of names of 150 BNP leaders before allowing BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan into the complex of the grave. (Right) A policeman searches senior BNP leader and former information minister M Shamsul Islam when he arrives at the complex.

PHOTO: STAR

JP leader Sheth sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court yesterday sent Jatiya Party (Ershad) city unit President and Central Vice Chairman Solaiman Sheth to jail after he appeared before the court to surrender in a murder case of the year 2004.

The court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge AKM Anwar Hossain also sent Farajul Islam, a personal staff of Sheth, to jail while it granted bail to 17 accused and rescinded bail of another two, sources said.

They said Sheth turned up at the court at around 10:00am to surrender in the murder case of Mohammad Alamgir that took place at city's Mohammad Nagar area under Bayezid Bostami Police Station on January 25, 2004. He was a charge sheeted accused in the case along with 22 others including two Ansar members, Mozammel Haq and Altaf Hossain.

Centring a land dispute on that day, the armed criminal gang of Sheth attacked the inhabitants of Mohammad Nagar and shot Alamgir dead and injured few others. A case was later filed with the Bayezid PS but the proceedings were halted allegedly under influence of power by Sheth, who was on bail until recently.

After the caretaker government was sworn in, the police started afresh the proceedings and on February 16 this year they submitted the charge sheet before the court accusing 23 people.

Sheth, who emerged as a political character recently, is widely known in the port city as a notorious 'Land Grabber' besides having a track record in other criminal activities. He also maintained a criminal gang to help materialise his ill-plans.

They alleged he had encroached over the year hundreds of acres of both khas and public land worth over several crores of taka, at many city areas in Bayezid Bostami PS and few other places.

Sheth was an accused in many criminal cases, including murder, hill cutting and land grabbing.

There are allegations that Sheth by using his influence and cadre gang also captured enemy or feuding properties owned by Hindu religious community in different parts of the city.

After publication of the news of Alamgir murder in January 2004, Sheth along with some cadres came to the Chittagong bureau office of Bhorer Kagoj, hurled abusive words and threatened the young reporter, who covered the story.

ATTACK ON WITNESS TO AUG 17 BOMBING Another accused held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Satkhira pourasava ward commissioner Shahidul Islam was arrested yesterday for his alleged involvement in the attempt to kill Rayshani Ali, a witness to the August 17 JMB serial bombing in the town in 2005.

Rawshan Ali, hacked by some miscreants at Datulapur in Satkhira Sadar upazila last Friday night, is now fighting for life at Khulna Sadar Hospital. The attack could be retaliatory to arrest of JMB cadres after the serial blasts, police said.

Shahidul was picked up from Puccapool intersection in the town, police said. Police earlier arrested Abdul Aziz, son of Yusuf Gazi of Bakal Islampur village in connection with the attack.

After Friday's attack on Rawshan, a case was filed with Sadar thana accusing seven people including Shahidul Islam.

Pickpocket Rawshan Ali of Bakal Islampur village in Sadar upazila was the lone eyewitness to the August 17 serial blasts in Satkhira town.

Saarc lawmakers meet in Simla on Saturday

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA from New Delhi

Lawmakers of eight Saarc countries, including Bangladesh, will assemble in Simla on Saturday to discuss ways to enhance cooperation and reduce tensions in the South Asian region.

The two-day event -- Towards South Asian Unity -- will be inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee while External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee will deliver the keynote speech.

Former external affairs minister Yashwant Sinha will address the concluding session of the meet that is expected to be attended by 87 Parliamentarians of the Saarc countries.

Organised by South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA), the meet, first of its kind to be held in India, will discuss how cooperation among the Saarc countries can be strengthened alongside reducing tension.

Keeping in mind the vision of a South Asian Parliament, the conference will deliberate on steps to be taken for continuous contacts among lawmakers of Saarc countries, either through a forum or any other self-sustaining mechanism.

The meet will also commemorate the 150th anniversary of India's first War of Independence in 1857. Simla has been chosen as the venue because of its association with the parleys on the transfer of power with the British rulers in

the 1940s.

Twenty three MPs from Pakistan, including Leader of Opposition Maulana Fazlur Rehman, PPP's Sher Bano Sherry Rehman, MQM's Farooq Sattar and MMA's Liaquat Baloch are expected to attend the conclave.

From Bangladesh, 12 former MPs, including three former ministers M Shamsul Islam, Osman Faruque and Abdul Moyeen Khan are expected to attend the meet.

The conference is also expected to discuss the problems journalists are facing across the region.

UNO arrested in Habiganj

UNB, Habiganj

Joint forces arrested Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) AKM Lutfur Rahman yesterday on charge of misappropriating rice of test relief.

Acting on a tip-off, the members of joint forces caught the UNO red-handed in his office at about 1:45pm while taking Tk 12,000 from Gupaya Union Parishad member Sona Miah. The money came from the illegal sale of test relief rice.

The UP member also gave the UNO another amount of Tk 20,000 earlier.

The UNO was being interrogated at the Deputy Commissioner's office till filing of the report at about 4:30pm.

Dag Hammarskjold Medal for families of dead peacekeepers

UNB, Dhaka

The families of 47 Bangladeshi peacekeepers, who died while working in UN peacekeeping missions, were given the United Nations' Dag Hammarskjold Medal yesterday.

Adjutant General of Bangladesh Army Major General M Matiur Rahman handed over the medals to the families at the auditorium of the Armed Forces Medical Institute.

Senior army officials were present on the occasion, said an ISPR press release.

Chevening fellows receive certificates

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury hosted a reception on Tuesday to present certificates to the Chevening Fellows who participated in the 2006-07 British Chevening Fellowship courses, says a press release.

The reception was held at the British high commissioner's residence in the city.

Chevening Fellowships are awarded globally by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office to support 'Partners in Leadership' in areas connected to UK International Priorities.

Speaking at the reception, the British high commissioner explained the growing importance of the UK's relationship with Bangladesh and the role of educational links.

He said, "There is tremendous potential and talent in this country, but this needs to be developed into strong and visionary leadership that can deliver. The UK Chevening scheme aims to assist in this. Through awarding Chevening Fellowships, we are seeking to help equip leaders in many fields: law, governance, economy, development -- leadership isn't just about politics and government."

This year, five Fellows received certificates following completion of courses in 'Government Relations with NGOs and Civil Society', 'Democracy, the Rule of Law and Security', 'Public Sector Reform', 'Economic Governance and Reform' and 'Islam and Governance'.

The Fellows are successful mid-career and senior professionals in positions of leadership, authority and influence, active in the subject area of their Fellowships. These Fellowships offer intensive professional development through a 12-week subject-immersion course in UK universities, with a challenging programme of academic, practical, and policy study and debate. They provide an opportunity to engage internationally with experts in their respective fields, sharing in the latest research and thinking on issues and applying this in ways that benefit both them personally, and Bangladesh.

PUBLIC SERVICE

'Political recruitment defames bureaucracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said political and dishonest recruitment of public servants and quota system are primarily responsible for recent defamations of bureaucracy as an institution.

They also said the lost image of public service could be revived through change in attitude of the bureaucrats, mainly through imparting proper training, as well as ensuring transparent recruitment process of the public service.

They were speaking at a seminar organised by Social Science Research Association at the Planning Commission auditorium in the city.

Chairman of Petro Bangla Dr SK Abdur Rashid in his paper pointed out that inter-faction feuds among the civil servants along with political pressure on the public servants damage their professionalism.

Dishonest recruitment process of civil servants through Public Service Commission is also a cause for the recent image crisis of bureaucracy.

"It is paradoxical that during the autocratic regimes, recruitment in civil administration was mainly made on the basis of candidate's merit", Rashid said.

Director General of Bangladesh Film Archive Dr Mohammad

Jahangir Hossain in his paper titled 'The Communication Pattern of Bureaucracy in Bangladesh: Internal and Public Dealings' said bureaucrats' communication with people is 'unsatisfactory'. Their plea for official secrecy is also a bar for their communication.

Dr Shah Mohammad Sanaul Hoque of Public Administration Training Centre in his paper titled 'E-Governance in Bangladesh: Initiatives and Challenges' said people-centric approaches of the government agencies can be ensured through introduction of e-governance in Bangladesh.

Dr Anisur Rahman in his paper titled 'Election in Bangladesh: Role of the Election Commission' spoke of amendment of electoral laws for ensuring free and fair polls in the country.

Communications Secretary Dr Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman lamented that since independence Bangladesh had 18 to 19 proposals for reform in the civil bureaucracy but none of those was implemented. Some of the proposals were resisted by the bureaucrats themselves while others were resisted by external forces, he said.

NOMINATION OF MAYOR SCC changes decision within hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) authorities changed its decision of replacing the SCC acting mayor just after hours of the previous declaration yesterday.

An office notification signed by SCC Chief Executive Officer Kazi Abdul Nur in the evening cancelled the previous nomination (vide memo # 513 dated 30-5-07) of Ward Commissioner Haji Mokhlisur Rahman Kamran as the acting mayor replacing Ward Commissioner Md Azam Khan.

The same official earlier in the afternoon yesterday issued notification (#512/07 dated 30-5-07) mentioning Ward Commissioner Haji Mokhlisur Rahman Kamran as SCC acting mayor.

The nomination had been given in accordance with the city corporation regulations. Md Azam Khan is the commissioner of the city's 27 wards.

He received the official letter and will take office today. He was also tipped with the position on April 6 when the SCC mayor was first caught by the law enforcers after the District and Sessions Judge issued a warrant of arrest against the mayor.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

To help the port users locate containers within seconds, an SMS (Short Message Service) system was launched at the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) of Chittagong port yesterday.

Saif Powertec Ltd - the private port management company that earlier introduced the same service at Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT), launched the service at NCT where it started container handling on May 16.

To locate a container at NCT now one would have to type 'Saif-space-container number' and then send the message to 7464 (for GrameenPhone subscribers) or to 7890 (for Aktel, Banglalink, CityCell and Teletalk subscribers). The service would provide the location within 30 seconds, said a press release here yesterday.

Managing Director of Saif Powertec T M Ruhul Amin said with the introduction of the SMS service, users need not go to the port to find a container, a process which earlier took one or two days and cost Tk 1500 to 2000.

The huge interest shown by the business community in the SMS at CCT encouraged Saif Powertec to expand the service to the NCT, said the managing director adding that the company had plans to introduce more technology-based services in the port in future.

Saif Powertec took the charge of container handling at the CCT on March 5 and introduced the SMS service there on May 3 through software installation at a cost of Tk 1.5 crore, sources said.

Some 15000 containers of CCT yard were brought under the network of the software to tell instantly about the location of a container on its arrival at the yard, they said.

Members of Dhaka Club have been requested to offer prayers for the departed soul.

Zainal Abedin Talukdar

Mohammad Zainal Abedin Talukdar, father of Mohiuddin Ibnul Siraji, ex-football player of Abahani Limited, passed away due to old age complications on Tuesday at his residence in Sirajganj at the age of 72, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four sons and four daughters to mourn his death.

Governing body and employees of Abahani Limited expressed condolences at his death. They also conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

The club flag was hoisted at half-mast to pay respect to his soul.

SMS service launched to locate containers at New Mooring Terminal

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Death anniversary

Today is the 19th death anniversary of Jamil Akhtar Ratan, slain by the fundamentalists on Rajshahi Medical College campus in 1988, says a press release.

Ratan, former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree Rajshahi Medical College unit, was shot and brutally chopped to death by Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres.

Since then, the date is being observed as 'Anti-fundamentalism and Communalism Day' by Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree.

Chhatra Moitree will hoist black flag in their central office at 7:00am today while leaders and activists will wear black badges. They will also place wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar at 10:00am.



Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Barisal, Chittagong and Khulna divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Chandpur, Barisal and Patuakhali and it may continue and become severe at places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 40.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 23.6 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:42pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	37.4	28.7	74	76
Chittagong	34.0	27.5	80	80
Rajshahi	39.8	26.6	61	38
Khulna	37.5	28.5	76	50
Barisal	35.5	27.5	81	64
Sylhet	33.2	23.6	88	77
Cox's Bazar	34.4	27.7	69	70