

DRIVE AT KITCHEN MARKETS

16 traders fined for selling essentials at high prices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and a mobile court conducted joint drives in two kitchen markets in the city yesterday and filed 17 cases against traders for tampering with weights, selling adulterated food products and selling essential items at high prices.

During the four-hour drive from 11:30am to 3:30pm at Shantinagar and Kamalapur AGB Colony kitchen markets, the court led by Magistrate Rokon-ud-Doula fined 16 traders Tk 95,000.

Bacchu Mia, 30, a meat seller, was arrested from Shantinagar

kitchen market for selling rotten meat.

Representatives of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) were also present during the drive.

Customers of the markets said the traders reduced the prices of essential items following the drive by the mobile court.

The traders were selling onion at Tk 40 per kilogram in the morning, but the prices came down to Tk 36 when the mobile court and Rab members came to the market, they said.

Although the joint forces fixed the

prices of essential items, traders at different kitchen markets were selling them at a higher price yesterday.

Aubergine was sold at Tk 35 to Tk 40 instead of Tk 18 fixed by the joint forces.

When asked about the differences in the price, the traders said that they bought aubergine at a high price.

Rab-3 Commanding Officer Sultan M Noorani told The Daily Star that they held meetings with the presidents and general secretaries of kitchen market traders' associations and asked them to sell essentials with small profit.

Prof Taher murder case shifted to speedy trial tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Prof S Taher Ahmed murder case has been shifted to Rajshahi divisional speedy trial tribunal.

The district and session judge's court sent the case documents to the tribunal on Wednesday following a gazette notification published on September 17 in this regard.

But the tribunal could not receive the documents due to an error in the case date in the gazette notification, court sources said.

The trial of the case had started at the public safety tribunal on July 3. Later, Judge Jahangir Alam Mollah refused to conduct the trial citing "unavoidable circumstances" and transferred the case to the district judge's court on August 20.

Prof Taher, a senior teacher of geology and mining department of Rajshahi University, was killed on February 1, 2006 and the police recovered his body from a sewer behind his house on the campus on February 3.

Prof Mia Muhammad Mohiuddin of the same department and Mahbulul Alam Salehi, former RU Shibir president, are the prime accused in the case.

Three other accused -- Jahangir, Salam and Nazmul -- in their judicial confessional statements mentioned the involvement of Mohiuddin and Salehi in the killing. Azimuddin Munshi is another accused in the case.

Twenty-six witnesses, out of over 60, have given their depositions in the public safety tribunal. The police had submitted the charge sheet on March 18 and the charges were framed on June 18.

Obituary

Humayun Kabir Khan and a k r, vice-chairman of Nitol Insurance Co. Ltd., passed away on September 8 in USA, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Dhanmondi Road # 7 Masjid after Juma prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the janaza. He will be buried at Azimpur graveyard.

Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Mahmuda Haq, former president of Bangladesh Lions District-315A and a member of management board of Mirpur Shishu Hospital, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and mafmil will be held at Plot no-20, Road no-68/A, Gulshan in the city after Juma prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Hafizuddin Master

The sixth death anniversary of Hafizuddin Master, father of Abdur Razzak, Mizaun Rahman, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhani and milad mafmil will be held at his Dhakhin Khan (Chalabondi) residence at Uttara in the city.

Cheholum

Cheholum of Anju Ahmed, wife of late Mezahab Uddin Ahmed and the eldest daughter of Abu Nasir Ahmed will be held at 1/3 Lalmatia, Block-D at 3:00pm today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Qulkhani

Qulkhani of Rowshan Ara Begum, former general secretary of Gandaaria Mahila Samity and wife of AKM Aminur Rahman, a retired deputy magistrate, will be held at Ananda Community Centre near the Gandaria Dhupkhola playground in the city after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

She passed away due to old age complications on Saturday morning at the age of 76.



PHOTO: STAR
This dilapidated manhole without cover in the middle of a road near the Kamalapur container depot in the city poses danger to passengers as well as pedestrians.

BSF kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) yesterday shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader and injured another near Jawran Border in Lalmonirhat.

The dead was identified as Abdur Rashid (32) of Daikhowa Jawran village under Hatibandha upazila.

BSF took away the body while injured Gopal Chandra (25) was undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

BSF sources said when a group of cattle traders tried to smuggle cattle into Bangladesh from India through Jawran Border near pillar No 911, BSF members of Gidal Dah camp fired on them killing Rashid on the spot and injuring Gopal.

Gopal managed to escape the scene.

Lieutenant Col Mukbul Quader, commanding officer of Lalmonirhat 31 Rifles Battalion said BSF agreed to hand over the body to them, after they sent a letter to BSF.

BSF members were put on high alert after the incident.

MADHUPUR NAT'L PARK COMMITTEE

Six indigenous members resign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

All the six indigenous members of Madhupur National Park Committee have resigned.

The 12-member committee was formed during a visit to Madhupur by Forest and Environment Adviser Dr CS Karim on March 9 to solve the problems of the national park and local indigenous people. The committee was headed by Madhupur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Dr MA Parvez Rahim.

The indigenous leaders quitted their posts in the committee on Wednesday alleging that the forest department was planting tree forcefully on the land of indigenous people.

Those who resigned are President of Joinsahi Adibashi Unnayan Parishad Ajoy-a-Mre, local indigenous leaders Ugin Nokrake, Shekhrab Mroang, Stephen Chambu Gang, William Dazel and Pronath Mng.

They submitted their resignation letters to the UNO of Madhupur upazila.

Ajoy-a-Mre told The Daily Star that the forest department did not stop filing false cases against the indigenous people despite the formation of the committee.

The forest department filed a case against the local indigenous people including their leaders on September 17 as they resisted the department's bid to plant a tree on their land at Benibaid area on the same day," he added.

When contacted, the UNO told The Daily Star that the committee could not work properly as there are many problems still to be solved between the forest department and the local indigenous people.

"However, efforts are on to bring the resigned committee members back to the committee," he added.

The press conference was

organised by Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC) at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium.

In a written statement, Director of the Central Sharif A Kafi said manpower export and trafficking are two different terms and situations.

It should be called trafficking if a group of people use fake documents and snatch the money of aspirant migrant workers in the name of manpower export, he added.

Expressing deep grief over the attack on the workers, the speakers placed some recommendations to stop such unwanted incidents and protect the aspirant migrant workers from being cheated in future.

DOUBLE MURDER
Two to die in Chuadanga

UNB, Chuadanga

A court here yesterday sentenced two people to death and nine others to life imprisonment in a double murder case.

Judge SAM Shahjaman Mashrefi of District Additional Sessions Judge's Court pronounced the judgement.

The court also fined two condemned convicts -- Tahazzel Hossain Nota and Robzel of Titudaha village -- Tk 2 lakh each, in default, to serve one year more in prison.

According to the prosecution, UP member Abu Mosa of Chhotoshalua village in Sadar upazila and his friend Shamsul Haq were killed at a nearby field in the village after they were abducted on Jan 9, 1999.

She passed away due to old age complications on Saturday morning at the age of 76.

Schoolgirl drowns in Bhairab river, two missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alamgir Babar handed over shipping documents for 10,000 metric tons of wheat to Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at his office yesterday. This shipment is a gift from the government and people of Pakistan to the brotherly government and people of Bangladesh and is reflective of the special relationship that exists between the two countries, said a Pakistan High Commission release. The shipment is expected to arrive at the Chittagong port on September 28. The High Commissioner also handed over a cheque for Tk 105,700 to the adviser as contribution of the High Commission for the Chief Adviser's Flood Relief Fund. The money was contributed by the officers and staff as well as the Wives' Association of the High Commission of Pakistan, the release added.

The body of a slain woman was found floating in the river Buriganga yesterday afternoon.

Keraniganj police recovered the body from Char Mirerbagh area after local people informed them at about 4:00pm.

The identity of the slaughtered woman aged about 25 could not be known immediately. The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Prothom Alo has shown responsibility by seeking apology. Says Khelafat Andolan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Welcoming Prothom Alo's apology for carrying the controversial cartoon titled Naam in its satire magazine Alpin, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan yesterday asked the government and the people not to do anything that might jeopardise the livelihoods of hundreds of employees of the newspaper.

The Prothom Alo authorities have shown responsibility and nobility by seeking apology, withdrawing the "uncalled-for" cartoon and assuring punishment to the persons involved without any delay, a Khelafat statement said yesterday.

"We also welcome the government's decision to arrest the persons involved," reads the statement signed by Kazi Azizul Haq, international affairs secretary, and Hamidullah Ibne Hafezi Hujur, Nayeb-e-Amir-e-Amel of Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan.

All types of media should be controlled for the sake of the country, nation, humanity, decency and honesty. However, before intervening in any media, its impact on the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of employees need to be considered seriously, added the statement.

"The survival of many employees of daily Amar Desh have been at risk as the owners of the newspaper were sent to jail and their bank accounts frozen," the statement said.

"In the meantime, the lives and livelihoods of the employees of CSB have been threatened due to its closure. Besides, many journalists and employees of Akher Kagoj have also become jobless due to its shutdown yesterday," the statement added.

"About five hundred more journalists and employees will become jobless instantaneously if Prothom Alo is shut down. The government and the pious people will have to think responsibly about the livelihoods and security of so many people," said Khelafat Andolan in its statement.

Protest by Khelafat Majlis

UNB adds: Khelafat Majlis yesterday demanded ban on the publication of the Prothom Alo for publishing the cartoon.

"The declaration of the Prothom Alo has to be cancelled and its editor and publisher are to be given exemplary punishment in order to preserve the image of the country and maintain peace," said Shaikhul Hadith Azizul Huq, ameer of Khelafat Majlis, at a press conference at his Purana Paltan office yesterday.

Govt authorises DMP to sue cartoonist Arif

Bss, Dhaka

The government yesterday authorised Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to file a regular case against detained contributing cartoonist Anur Rahman of the Prothom Alo for publishing a completely unacceptable cartoon in the daily's weekly satire magazine Alpin, an official press release said.

It said the officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station was authorised to file the case under Section 295A of the Penal Code against the cartoonist.

Prothom Alo editor, cartoonist sued in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An official of a private Islamic university yesterday filed a case against the editor, publisher and freelance cartoonist of Prothom Alo for hurting religious sentiment of Muslims.

Mohammad Reza, chief estate and administrative officer of Jameatul Islamia, a private Islamic university, filed the case with the Metropolitan Magistrate's court.

The court took the case into cognisance and fixed September 30 for hearing.

The plaintiff alleged that the cartoon 'naam' (Name) published in the Bangla daily's satire magazine "Alpin" on September 17 was derogatory to Prophet Mohammad (SM).

It hurt the belief and sentiment of Muslims and was aimed at creating conflict between Bangladesh and other Islamic nations, said the plaintiff.

Body of woman found floating in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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