

Curtain drops on Boi Mela

RAKIB AHAMMED
The month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela ended yesterday.

Expressing satisfaction over the peaceful completion of the fair, writers, publishers and booklovers hoped to join the next years' fair.

Three thousand and eight new books were published in the fair this year, said Shahida Khatun, member secretary of the fair organising committee.

The total sale amounted to around Tk 25 crore, she said, adding that Bangla Academy sold books worth over Tk 70 lakh.

Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan, however, expressed

concern over the quality of books. The quality of the books was very poor, he said.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad said at the closing ceremony that Bangla Academy has been doing a great job by organising the book fair on its premises.

Kabir Chowdhury, president of Bangla Academy, said the fair proves that demand for books will never decrease.

In the afternoon, visitors, writers, and publishers exchanged greetings while sellers were busy meeting the last moment's demands of the customers.

They demanded a larger fair ground considering the growing number of visitors.



PHOTO: STAR
Visitors through the Bangla Academy premises on the last day of the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday.

3 die, 75 hurt

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Of the rest, 11 were admitted to DMCH while the others were sent to different clinics and hospitals in Dhaka and Narayanganj.

The conditions of Mariam, Sabina and her 11-month-old girl Sumaiya, Anwar Hossain, 45, Shuvo, 12, Monir Hossain, 40, Yarham, 45, Hasan, 35, Sultan, 30, Hashmatullah, 40, Kala Chand, 40, Shahjahan, 45, Abdul Hye, 60, Delwar Hossain, 40, Rubina and a 25-year-old unidentified youth were stated to be critical.

Many of the train passengers, travelling on its engine and roof, truck passengers and employees of a nearby shop are among the injured.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound train from Narayanganj rammed a timber-laden truck at the unguarded level crossing around 9:40am, said Golam Mostafa, stationmaster of Fatullah Railway Station.

Hit by the train, the truck bumped into the shop, witnesses said.

According to train driver Abul Hossain, the truck got on the railway track when the train came near the railroad crossing. He tried in vain to slow down the speeding train before the collision.

Truck driver Md Babar Ali, undergoing treatment at DMCH, said he was on a trip to Bhanga in Faridpur. There was no barrier at the spot, he added.

Railway's Senior Deputy Assistant Engineer Abdul Matin Mondal said the road was constructed illegally at Nandalapur area without taking permission from the railway authorities. It has been closed after the accident.

Train movement on Dhaka-Narayanganj route remained suspended for about two-and-a-half hours following the accident, noted Abdul Aziz, stationmaster of Narayanganj.

The rail link was restored around 12:15 pm after a rescue train from Kamalapur reached the accident site around 11:30am and moved the train.

Railway sources said a four-member enquiry committee, led by Railway Divisional Transport Officer Nazmul Islam, has been formed to probe the accident. Other members of the body are Divisional Engineers Arifur Rahman, Benu Ranjan and Subakta Din. The committee has been asked to submit its report within two days.

Director General of Bangladesh Railway T u h i d u l A n w a r Chowdhury, Additional Directors General Md Shahjahan and Anhar Mahmud and members of the enquiry committee visited the spot.

There are 26 level crossings on Dhaka-Narayanganj route, of which 12 are unauthorised, noted sources in railway.

Commuters have been increasingly opting for train journey on this route since the beginning of construction work of Jatrabari flyover. Almost every train has been carrying passengers double of its capacity, added sources.

Passengers alleged a section of dishonest railway employees allow more than 100 passengers on the engines and roofs of the trains putting their lives in danger.

Yunus beyond

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Bank because the retirement age of the bank is 60," said Muzammel.

Hence, him being the bank chief executive is "illegal and not valid", Muzammel said.

A Bangladesh Bank official said the finance ministry can now remove Yunus because the government holds a 25 percent stake in the microlender.

"We told the finance ministry his overstaying as the chief executive clearly flouted section number 14(1) of the Grameen Bank laws," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The move comes as Yunus faces intense pressure from the government to quit his post. In early February, Finance Minister AMA Muthith asked the Nobel winner to go.

Following the release of a Norwegian documentary in December which accused Yunus and Grameen of malpractice, Yunus has been vilified in the Bangladeshi press and seen his bank become the target of a government investigation.

After the release of the documentary, the Norwegian government opened an investigation and expressed its full satisfaction over the use of its funds.

Latest

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looted valuables from there," an eyewitness told The DailyStar early today.

Identities of the abducted women could not be known immediately.

"We managed to flee somehow. We are in grave danger. We don't know what will happen next," one of the officials at the high commission said.

He said several hundred Bangladeshi workers had been gathered in front of the high commission for the past few days. But he could not say what happened to the gathered workers after last night's incident.

Tens of thousands of Bangladeshi workers have been stuck along Tunisia and Egypt borders, passing their days under inhumane conditions. But no initiative from the government was taken so far to evacuate them, added the official.

He claimed a civil war has started in Tripoli. The official appealed to the Bangladesh government to send airplanes without further delay to bring them back home immediately, adding that they are living close to death.

Iran arms Afghan insurgents, says Nato

AFP, Kabul
The Nato force in Afghanistan yesterday spelt out the support it believes Iran is providing to insurgents in the violence-wracked country, warning it was keeping a wary eye out.

Tehran opposes the presence of thousands of US troops in the region, with American soldiers stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, both of which border Iran, an Islamic republic.

"They (Iran) are giving them a limited amount of bullets, technical pieces of IEDs, rockets, RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades), through networks well established through the border," said US Rear Admiral Gregory Smith.

Windies blow

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dangerous playing surface.

The Netherlands hardly posed any threat in the lop-sided encounter, crumbling to 36-5 by the 11th over after early strikes from Roach, who took 6-27, and left-arm spinner Sulieman Benn (3-28).

Roach, 22, returned to collect only the sixth World Cup hat-trick and the first of this tournament, sealing an emphatic win for the former world champions.

Dutch hope Ryan ten Doeschate, who scored 119 against England, failed to repeat his magic, trapped leg before wicket for seven by Benn.

Tom Cooper provided the only resistance with an unbeaten 55 off 72 balls.

West Indies captain Darren Sammy praised Roach.

"It was great, brilliant. His role in the team is to be a strike bowler and it was important that he went out and did it," said Sammy.

Dutch skipper Peter Borren was bemused by his team's performance after they had pushed England hard in their opener.

"I don't know what to put it down to. I guess the guys just didn't turn up after what was a decent performance against England," he said.

Gayle put on 100 runs for the opening wicket with Devon Smith (53) after the West Indies were put in to bat on a placid wicket in the day-night clash.

Pollard, who plays for Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League, hammered five fours and four sixes on his way to the third-fastest World Cup half-century before Ramnaresh Sarwan chipped in with a 42-ball 49.

Gayle overcame a subdued start to unleash seven fours and two sixes in his 110-ball knock, which was cut short by ten Doeschate (1-77) during a batting Powerplay.

Smith scored at a quicker pace than his more famous partner, racing to his fourth one-day half-century off 45 balls with the help of nine fours.

Just when Smith looked set to go on to a bigger score, he edged behind off medium-pacer Bernard Loots to give the Netherlands their first breakthrough in the 17th over.

The win put life back into the West Indies campaign after they lost to South Africa in their opener.

For Netherlands, it was the second defeat on the trot after the six-wicket reversal against England in Nagpur last week.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the World Cup Group B match between the West Indies and the Netherlands at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi on Monday:
WEST INDIES

Smith c Barresi b Loots	53
Gayle c Kervezee b ten Doeschate	80
Bravo c Kervezee b Seelaar	30
Sarwan lbw b Westdijk	49
Pollard c ten Doeschate b Bukhari	60
Sammy c Kervezee b Seelaar	6
Chanderpaul b Seelaar	4
Thomas lbw b Bukhari	13
Miller not out	11
Benn not out	3
Extras: (b-3, lb-3, w-14, nb-1)	21
Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs)	330

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-26, 3-34, 4-35, 5-36, 6-56, 7-113, 8-312, 9-326				
Did not bat: Roach				
Bowler O M R W				
Bukhari	10	1	65	2
Westdijk	7	0	56	1
Ten Doeschate	10	0	77	1
Loots	7	0	44	1
Cooper	6	0	37	0
Seelaar	10	1	45	3

NETHERLANDS	
Kervezee st Thomas b Benn	14
Barresi c Gayle b Roach	0
Cooper not out	55
Ten Doeschate lbw b Benn	7
Zuiderent b Roach	1
De Grooth lbw b Benn	1
Borren c Pollard b Sammy	10
Bukhari b Roach	24
Seelar lbw b Roach	1
Loots lbw b Roach	0
Westdijk b Roach	0
Extras: (lb-2)	2
Total: (All out in 31.3 overs)	115

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-26, 3-34, 4-35, 5-36, 6-56, 7-113, 8-115, 9-115				
Bowler O M R W				
Benn	8	1	28	3
Roach	8.3	0	27	6
Miller	7	0	23	0
Sammy	7	0	33	1
Pollard	1	0	2	0

Result: West Indies won by 215 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Kemar Roach.

'TOXIC' RID SYRUP, 28 DEATHS

Case hearing deferred again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court deferred the hearing on charge framing against Rid Pharmaceuticals' managing director (MD) and four others for the sixth time yesterday.

The court set March 9 for the hearing following a petition seeking adjournment on the grounds that defence lawyer Syed Rezaur Rahman was unable to appear before the court because of his dealing with other cases with Metropolitan Sessions Judge's and Chief Judicial Magistrate's Courts of Dhaka.

Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the Drug Court, however, warned the defendants that the hearing would not be postponed any further.

Earlier, the court had to defer the hearing twice on similar excuses.

On January 17, the court adjourned the hearing for about one and half months as Rid Pharma MD Mizanur Rahman had fallen sick.

A case was filed in August

2009 against the five of the company for using toxic diethylene glycol in manufacturing paracetamol syrup that caused deaths of 28 children the same year.

Of the five, three went into hiding. They are Abdur Gani, a director, Mahbubul Islam and Enamul Haque, two pharmacists of the company.

Accused Mizanur and his wife were present at the court.

In 2009, Brahmanbaria police took more than nine months to submit reports on execution of arrest warrants against the three fugitives.

The case against Rid Pharma reminds us of the fate of four similar cases in 1992. None of the four companies - Adflame Pharmaceutical Ltd, Polychem Laboratories Ltd, BCI (Bangladesh) Ltd, and Rex Pharmaceutical - which used a lethal chemical, diethylene glycol, in paracetamol syrup, were brought to book.

In 1992, the lethal chemical claimed lives of 2,700 children.

Amur tigers in crisis

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diversity of the world's largest cat.

Very low diversity means any vulnerability to disease or rare genetic disorders is likely to be passed on to the next generation.

The findings are reported in the journal *Mammalian Biology*.

The Amur tiger, or Siberian tiger as it is also known, once lived across a large portion of northern China, the Korean peninsula, and the southernmost regions of eastern Russia.

During the early 20th Century, the Amur tiger was almost driven to extinction, as expanding human settlements, habitat loss and poaching wiped out this biggest of cats from over 90% of its range.

By the 1940s, just 20 to 30 individuals survived in the wild. The new study has identified that this recent "genetic bottleneck" -- when the breeding population of tigers was so critically low - has decimated the Amur tiger gene pool.

A more genetically diverse population of animals has a much better chance of survival; it is more likely, for example, to contain the genetic resistance to a variety of diseases and less likely to succumb to rare genetic disorders, which can be "cancelled out" by healthy genes.

Scientists in Russia, Spain and Germany worked

5,062 pass

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applicants sat the preliminary exams, vying for 1,581 posts. Of them, 13,536 qualified for the written test of which 7,217 came out successful.

Among the successful candidates, 6,523 took part in the viva voce and 5,062 passed the test. However, results of 48 candidates have been kept suspended.

One killed

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Police said Tipu was a listed criminal and the leader of a gang named 'Tipu Bahini.'

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-11 went to Dakshin Misapur village at about 3:00am where Tipu and his cohorts were preparing to rob a house.

Sensing their presence, the criminals opened fire at the elite force members, prompting them to retaliate. Tipu was caught in the line of fire and died on the spot though his cohorts managed to flee the scene, said police.

Rab recovered three firearms and some bullets from the spot.

Two Rab members Havilder Shafiqul Islam and Havilder Dilip Barua - were also slightly injured during the 'gunfight' and received primary treatment from the local upazila health complex.

together to analyse DNA samples from 15 wild Amur tigers in the Russian Far East.

They took blood samples from the animals and screened them for certain "markers" -- points in the DNA code that show that an animal had parents that were genetically very different from each other.

The results revealed evidence of the genetic bottleneck during the tigers' recent history, when the variety of genes being passed on dramatically reduced.

Genetically speaking, the Amur tiger has not recovered from this.

Cox's Bazar

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The apex court also dismissed four leave-to-appeal petitions against the HC order. The petitions were filed by the owners of some structures including a few hotels and restaurants set up on the beach.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain on January 10 directed the government to remove all permanent and temporary structures from the beach to keep its natural beauty intact.

The bench passed the order following a public interest litigation filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB). The petition was filed following a report published in The DailyStar on January 5.

The DC of Cox's Bazar on January 12 served a notice on the owners to remove their structures from the beach within a week.

Four owners -- Nowshad Karim, Rabiul Islam, Ferdous Akhter and Mujibul Islam -- filed four writ petitions with the HC bench headed by Justice Miftah Uddin Chowdhury challenging the notice. The bench on January 17 temporarily stayed the notice.

The land ministry then filed four writ petitions with the HC bench headed by Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik seeking to vacate the order.

After the hearing, the bench on February 15 vacated the order passed by Justice Miftah Uddin Chowdhury.

Subsequently, the owners filed separate leave to appeal petitions with the SC for staying the February 15 HC order that ordered them to demolish their structures.

Advocate Manzill Murhsid, the counsel for HRPB and land ministry, told The DailyStar that there is no legal bar to knock down the structures following the SC order.

Barrister Kamal-ul Alam, advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, and advocate AM Amin Uddin appeared for the owners of structures.