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28 DEATHS IN 2009, RID'S 'TOXIC' PARACETAMOL SYRUP Case goes into trial at last

Charges framed against 5; legal experts, observers see loopholes, unsure about justice

EMRAN HOSSAIN

About two years into the deaths of 28 children, allegedly after taking toxic paracetamol syrup produced by Rid Pharma Ltd, a Dhaka court only yesterday framed charges against five officials of the drug company.

Three of the accused are still at large, while the managing director and a director of Rid Pharma are on bail.

The trial is yet to begin, and justice is being delayed as the court allowed deferment of hearing for framing

charges time and again.

Police also delayed the proceedings of the case by taking long 14 months to act on an arrest warrant before they informed the court that the accused were absconding. Later, the two of the five accused obtained bail from the court after surrender.

Cases were filed in four courts against the accused. Although charges were finally framed in one of the courts yesterday, legal experts and relevant authorities do not expect much, as they see gaping holes in the cases.

For example, autopsy was not done on any of the 28 children who died allegedly by taking the paracetamol laced with deadly diethylene glycol, an industrial solvent and an ingredient in antifreeze and brake fluid. So there is hardly any chance of linking the deaths to the presence of the toxin.

Not only that, the fact that diethylene glycol was present in Rid Pharma's paracetamol syrup, Temset, was not mentioned at all in three of the cases. Those cases only

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This photo taken on August 24, 2009, shows four-year-old Eva fighting acute renal failure at Dhaka Shishu Hospital. She died a few days later. Rid's paracetamol syrup, inset, caused her renal failure. FILE PHOTO

Policeman crushed under bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police constable was crushed under the wheels of a bus on Dhaka-Maowa highway in the city's Jatrabari yesterday.

Delwar Hossain, 28, a driver constable of Mohammadpur Police Station, was returning to his Shyampur residence.

The accident occurred at about 12:30am when a Maowa-bound speeding bus from Dhaka hit Delwar's motorbike from behind leaving him dead on the spot, said

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BNP goes for non-partisan protests

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The main opposition BNP yesterday asked its district leaders to organise non-partisan programmes to protest the removal of Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus from Grameen Bank.

Local party leaders and activists will take part in

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Full SC bench to decide Yunus' fate

Hearing on Mar 15; move on to find new MD for Grameen Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus yesterday filed an appeal with the Supreme Court in a final attempt to stay as the managing director of Grameen Bank he founded nearly three decades



ago.

In the appeal filed with Supreme Court chamber judge Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Dr Yunus sought a stay on a High Court ruling that upheld his removal by the Bangladesh Bank

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Hillary backs Grameen independence

STAR REPORT

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton backed Grameen Bank's independence in a telephone call to Prof Muhammad Yunus, her spokesman said.

"Secretary Clinton spoke yesterday with Dr Muhammad Yunus and

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Biman to fly in evacuees

Libya returnees demand compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh is going to fly home the Bangladeshis stranded at Egypt borders with Libya.

"From March 13, Biman will operate five flights a week till the repatriation finishes," Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader yesterday told The Daily Star over the phone.

The flights will pick the Bangladeshis from Alexandria on its way from London and Jeddah, he said.

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Yahya would be Mujib's guest

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Politicians in West Pakistan scrambled to find a solution to the crisis in East Pakistan.

Among those who asked General Yahya Khan to accede to

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