



Actor Nicolas Cage arrested

AP, New Orleans

Actor Nicolas Cage was arrested after he got drunk in the city's French Quarter and argued in the street with his wife over whether a house they were in front of was theirs, police said yesterday. In a press release, police said that Cage was arrested the previous evening. The couple was in front of a home that Cage insisted they were renting. She said it wasn't theirs, and Cage then grabbed her arm. The release said Cage started hitting vehicles and tried to get into a taxi. A police officer saw that Cage was drunk and told him to get out of the cab. Cage then started yelling at the officer.

The actor has been booked on charges of domestic abuse battery, disturbing the peace and public drunkenness. He remained in the Orleans Parish Prison on Saturday afternoon. A judge set his bond at \$11,000.

Representatives for Cage could not immediately be reached.

Cage won an Academy Award for his performance in 1995's "Leaving Las Vegas."

Danger lurks

FROM PAGE 1 They confirmed both Velox and Valex are antibiotics with different functions. A wrong intake of any medicine could prove fatal for a patient.

If a non-epileptic patient is treated with Valex, he or she may suffer from various side effects like gastric irritation, nausea, ataxia, edema and tremor, mentioned pharmacologists adding, longer use of this medication may lead to dementia and toxic epidermal necrolysis, a severe allergic reaction.

Druggists attributed this type of mix-up largely to the lack of training and knowledge of sellers at drug counters.

According to the Drugs (Control) Ordinance, 1982, it is mandatory for every drug store to have a licence from government. Besides, each of those must have a trained pharmacist registered with the Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh (PCB).

The country has 2.25 lakh drug stores and only 82,000 of them have licences, found a study of Department of Pharmaceutical Technology of Dhaka University in 2008.

Only 56,000 registered pharmacists are working in the licensed stores, said sources in the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA).

The DGDA is licensing many pharmacies without a trained pharmacist in violation of the law, alleged a high official in PCB.

This is one of the major reasons that makes pharmacies care less about licence or trained pharmacists, he added.

Tajjul Islam, who has been running a pharmacy since 2006 in the city's Azampur area, said he is an LMF (Licence of Medical Faculty) and had completed a one-year pharmacy course in 2001 from Dhaka Diploma Institute at Uttara.

"At least 30 pharmacies are doing business in this area and only three of those have licences... Those claiming to be pharmacists in these stores also don't have any certificate. They just have tokens of admission in pharmacy course to show if any drug superintendent comes to visit," he added.

The government must strengthen the monitoring of drug stores, said Zafrullah Chowdhury, coordinator of Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

He also observed that every medical college should provide a short training on pharmacy to ensure proper use of drugs.

Director General of DGDA Abul Kalam Azad said his office can fine a pharmacy or close it, if there is no registered pharmacist.

He, however, admitted there is a shortage of officials to monitor the drug stores.

Sports out, fair in

FROM PAGE 20

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, however, said he was not aware of illegal structures being built on the playground whereas DCC is the custodian of it.

Asadur Rahman Rana, a member of Event Management Committee of the club, said they informed the DCC chief executive officer about holding the fair.

The club built some 40 stalls and a stage along the boundary walls inside the playground.

Rana said sacrifices have to be made for a celebration like this.

On violation of the HC order, he said the club's top officials can answer regarding that.

Despite repeated attempts, club's president Manzur Kader could not be reached over the phone for his comment.

Robi mobile telephone company sponsored the event and the club did not take any money for the stalls, said Rana adding that the wives of club members and various boutique shops took the stalls.

"We got permission from Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner, and the local officer-in-charge (OC) assured us of all possible support for the event," said Rana.

Upon enquiry, Moniruzzaman, OC of

Dhanmondi Police Station, said he was not aware of the HC order.

The HC in another order in December 2009 restrained any organisations-- public or private-- from altering the character of Dhanmondi playground.

Following a writ petition filed jointly by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and IAB, an HC bench in 2004 issued a rule upon the then DCC mayor asking him to file a report on the measures taken to preserve the playground. The court also ordered to remove all unauthorised semi-concrete structures there.

But DCC has not yet removed the structures.

Another HC bench in May 2003, in response to a writ petition filed by Bela, asked the government to ensure proper maintenance and protection of the playgrounds and open spaces in the capital.

Public Works Department (PWD), owner of the 13.5-bigha Dhanmondi playground, handed it over to DCC in January 1984 for its maintenance and conservation.

The public works ministry in July 2008 decided to free the playground from any illegal occupancy and maintain it as a public open space. However, the decision has yet to be implemented.

Equal transit fees

FROM PAGE 1

As the fuel surcharge will be paid by only those foreign vehicles that will refuel in Bangladesh petrol stations, it will have to remain outside the purview of transit charge. This surcharge will have to be collected separately at the sales points and it will go to the collection head of VAT wing of NBR, it said.

The Customs Management of Transit and Transshipment Goods Rules, 2010 may be amended so that the "transit/transshipment fee" mentioned in the rules reflect all types of fees and charges that were combined together, it read.

The report said, for ease of collection of fees and reducing hassle of transit traffic, the combined "transit charge" can be collected at a single point, for example, at the time of entry of the transit vehicles at the bordering customs stations.

According to General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and Customs Act, 1969 of Bangladesh, it cannot impose customs duties or tax on transit traffic, it said.

But there are no restrictions on imposing transit charge on the movement of transit traffic in order to recover various types of costs related to administrative expenses such as costs of customs formalities, customs inspection and charge for use of services.

This user charge will also cover various types of external costs associated with transit traffic, such as cost due to congestion, environmental pollution, accidents

from the extra traffic, use of fuel, and financial costs of network provision and maintenance.

The report said such fees or charges may also incorporate certain portion of the benefits enjoyed by the countries that are provided with transit facilities.

It cited different studies and said Bangladesh may charge a transit fee for each tonne of Indian, Nepalese, Bhutanese cargo that will travel through the country based on a certain percentage of the savings made by the respective beneficiary country.

Mentioning different transit routes, the report said the savings by India, Nepal or Bhutan could be around 12 to 80 percent depending on the routes they will use through Bangladesh.

The apportionment of the percentage of such savings between the countries involved may be settled through negotiation, the report said.

The government assigned the committee on transit to conduct an extensive study to fix routes and fees, economic analysis of the transit, and assess the volume of traffic before allowing transit to India, Nepal and Bhutan.

The sub-committees included former UN ESCAP director M Rahmatullah, Executive Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Mustafizur Rahman, Vice Chairman of Policy Research Institution and former World Bank official Sadik Ahmed, BIDS Senior Research Fellow Dr Mohammad Yunus.

Grabbers

FROM PAGE 1

The HC in 2009 asked the deputy commissioners (DC) of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Munshiganj to survey and demarcate the rivers Buriganga, Turag, Balu, Shitalakkhya and Dhaleshwari.

On April 12 this year, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan formally launched the demarcation process on the Turag in Gazipur. The administration of the district has so far put up several hundred pillars demarcating the river minus its foreshore.

"The DCs have adopted this measure to save the powerful river grabbers. Besides, their list of illegal structures is also inaccurate," said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela).

She said the DCs have started demarcating the rivers in the dry season when the water flow is lean. It is ironic that the adminis-

trative officials of a riverine country are unaware of the very definition of a river, she added.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmed, president of Bapa, expressed shock over what the Gazipur administration has done.

In a written statement, Bapa General Secretary Md Abdul Matin demanded that the authorities must remove the pillars immediately and recover the rivers in compliance with the HC orders.

Mubasshar Hussein, president of Institute of Architects Bangladesh, said the prime minister is being misled regarding river conservation as it had happened while laying foundation to the illegal BGMEA building.

Bapa Joint Secretary Iqbal Habib demanded that the rivers be saved in the light of wetland protection act, port act, port rules and the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) for Dhaka.

Tourist resort staff abducted in Bandarban

UNB, Bandarban

An employee of Sakura Village, a private tourist resort, situated on the outskirts of the district town was abducted by a gang of armed miscreants for ransom on Friday night.

Fakhrul Islam, an employee of the tourist resort, said a gang of miscreants numbering 7 to 8 swooped on the resort at about 10:30am and abducted its Supervisor Omar Farukatgunpoint.

Later, the abductors identifying themselves as the activists of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) demanded Tk 50 lakh ransom over cell phone yesterday morning.

Police detained workers of the tourist resort Babul and Sukumar Barua for interrogation.

BURKINA FASO MUTINY

President dissolves government to quell revolt

AFP, Ouagadougou

Mutinous soldiers took to the streets of the Burkina Faso capital in a second night of protests yesterday even as President Blaise Compaore dissolved his government and named a new army chief.

Seeking to reassert his authority after a mutiny by his personal guard and mass streets protests Thursday and Friday, Compaore announced that "the secretaries-general of the ministries will be in charge of current affairs" until a new cabinet of ministers is appointed on a date he did not specify.

'Safe home'

FROM PAGE 20 safety of our leaders. The Safe Home is in an area, which is considered a ruling party stronghold.

He was speaking at a press conference at the party headquarters in the city's Moghbazara area.

The Jamaat leader announced a countrywide protest rally on April 18 demanding cancellation of the remand of the two party leaders.

"The government will have to take the full responsibility, if anything happens to the two top leaders," Ahzarul said.

The International Crimes Tribunal on April 13 allowed interrogators to quiz the two at a "Safe Home" in Dhanmondi from 10:00am to 5:00pm on two dates.

During a court hearing, defence counsel Munshi Ahsan Kabir said the "safe home" is in a residential area that lacks security and medical facilities.

But Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo rejected the claim and told the court that the "Safe Home" is well-secured.

On April 5, the tribunal allowed investigators to quiz Nizami and Mojahid inside Dhaka Central Jail in connection with 1971 war crimes.

1 held

FROM PAGE 20 Lalon devotee of Char Ramnagar village, filed the case on April 10 against 50 people. Mufti Rezaul Islam is one of the 13 accused whose names were mentioned.

On April 5, Sadhu Sangha, an organisation of bauls (mystic devotees) arranged a two-day annual cultural programme at the village where Lalon devotees flocked in from districts like Kushtia, Rajbari and Pabna.

However, a group of villagers foiled the programme by vandalising the microphone and other musical instruments. Following arbitration on the same day, the imam of the local mosque ordered to cut off the hair and moustaches of 28 devotees in a mass gathering.

4 die

FROM PAGE 1 rushed to the spot and recovered the unconscious workers around 6:15pm after spraying oxygen inside the tank.

They were taken to the Keranihat Al-Arsafa Hospital where doctors declared them dead.

Gaddafi force using 'cluster bombs'

FROM PAGE 20

The use of the munitions was first reported by The New York Times. A reporting team for the daily photographed MAT-120 mortar rounds which it said were produced in Spain.

"It's appalling that Libya is using this weapon, especially in a residential area," said Steve Goose, HRW's arms division director.

A spokesman for the Libyan regime denied the accusations.

"Absolutely no. We can't do this. Morally, legally we can't do this," Mussa Ibrahim told journalists. "We never do it. We challenge them to prove it."

In Paris, aid organisation Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said it had evacuated 99 people, including 64 war-wounded, by boat from Misrata on Friday to Tunisia.

Speaking of the dire conditions in the city, under

siege for weeks, MSF Doctor Morten Rostrup said in a statement that "health structures have been struggling to cope with the influx of patients".

Libya said a Red Cross team had arrived in Misrata to assess the situation.

Tens of thousands of migrants have already fled Libya since the rebellion broke out in mid-February.

Meanwhile, an AFP reporter stopped at a rebel checkpoint west of Ajdabiya heard explosions from several shells in the distance as rebels pushed forward to confront government forces hit by Nato air strikes.

The insurgents' goal is to retake Brega about 80 kilometres away. Some reports said they were already on the outskirts of the oil town.

Yesterday afternoon, an AFP correspondent reported heavy fighting in the area, including rocket, mortar

and small arms fire.

Meanwhile, doctors in Ajdabiya said one person was killed and seven wounded by gunfire Friday along the road to Brega. Their identity was not known.

In the far west of the country, witnesses on Friday reported Nato air strikes on Gaddafi armour in the Zintan region, amid clashes with rebels who hold several areas and rebel reports Gaddafi troops were trying to cut the road to nearby Yafran.

On the diplomatic front, the leaders of Britain, France and the United States said on Friday that a Libyan future including Gaddafi is "unthinkable," while Russia charged that Nato was exceeding its UN mandate in Libya.

French Defence Minister Gerard Longuet said the United States, Britain and

France were thinking beyond UN Security Council Resolution 1973 -- which authorises action to protect Libyan civilians -- and now seek regime change.

He admitted that the statement by the three leaders went beyond the terms of the current UN mandate.

But Nato Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen denied the air strikes were beyond the scope of the UN resolution.

"I have to stress that in the conduct of that operation, we do not go beyond the text or the spirit" of the resolution, he said.

The Washington Post reported late Friday that Nato is running short of precision bombs and other munitions in Libya, citing unnamed senior Nato and US officials. The scope of the problem was not mentioned.

PM influencing

FROM PAGE 1

The BNP leaders said this at a rally in Muktangan in the capital. The rally was organised in protest against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's comment on the cases against Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia's elder son Tarique Rahman, also BNP's senior vice-chairman, and his brother Arafat Rahman Koko.

Speaking as the chief guest BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said the way the premier gave the "instruction" is clear interference into the judiciary.

"After hearing her statements regarding the cases, we won't be wrong if we suspect that all recent verdicts in the courts were given following her [Prime Minister's] direction," he said.

"The prime minister's comment proves that the judiciary is not independent," he added.

The main opposition staged its protest programmes across the country yesterday. At least 19 opposition leaders and activists were injured as police charged batons on a procession in Jhenaidah.

Earlier on April 11, Hasina at a cabinet meeting also asked the law and finance ministries and the Bangladesh Bank to expedite trial of the money laundering cases.

The premier made the directive as money laundering cases, including those against Tarique and Koko and their business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun, were losing pace.

Presiding over the protest rally, BNP's acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "People have struggled to make the judiciary independent, but the prime minister is destroying the judiciary by choking its freedom."

Praising Tarique Rahman for contribution to the country's politics, he said Tarique went to the poor and gave them goats and poultry so that they can improve their life standard.

Another standing committee member Rafiqul Islam Miah said according to the constitution, the cabinet has no right to talk about any pending cases. The comment of the prime minister is a violation of the constitution, he added.

BNP leaders Mirza Abbas, Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Selima Rahman, Abdullah Al Noman, Amanullah Aman, Moazzem Hossain Alal, among others, addressed the rally.

Stepfather

FROM PAGE 20

Monju Mia, 22, married Shilpi. At that time Shilpi was a mother of two sons. Just four months ago, the couple had a daughter.

On Friday evening, during a squabble between Monju and Shilpi, the latter threw their infant girl on the bed. Furious with the act, Monju hit Bijoy on the head with a block of brick, said police sources.

Monju then took the boy outside and killed him by smashing the head with brick and hid the body in the pond, the sources added. Bijoy's mother went to police yesterday afternoon as the boy went missing from Friday.

A murder case against Monju was under process with Jatrabari police station till filing of the report at 10:00pm.

FROM PAGE 1 "That herd of elephants does not have any place to hide in the forest or anything to eat. People chase them wherever they go, as people are living inside the reserve forest now," added Dr Reza, who saw a herd of seven elephants in Pablakhali last month.

Experts say the biggest mammals on ground are already critically endangered in Bangladesh and would not survive for long if the government does not secure safe corridors and plant fodders in the forest immediately.

Elephants are herbivores and enjoy a range of vegetation including grasses, bamboo, tree and plant leaves, legumes, bark, roots and fruits. A mature adult has a prodigious appetite and requires between 200-300 kilograms of food every day and can drink up to 60 gallons of water.

"But most of the forests lack these plant species," said wildlife expert Anisuzzaman Khan.

The government should plant these species for elephants and other species for other animals," he said.

The government should also motivate locals so that they don't clear elephant food, make houses or cultivate crops on natural elephant corridors, he said adding that illegal settlements in the reserve forest or sanctuary are increasing human-elephant conflicts as well as destroying the last remaining forests.

The wildlife section

under the department of forest is supposed to look after the wildlife and their habitat. Interestingly, Pablakhali wildlife sanctuary and Teknaf game reserves are not under the jurisdiction of the wildlife division of the Department of Forest.

"I know elephants and other animals in different forests are suffering from lack of food and it is not properly managed," said Tapan Kumar Dey, conservator of forest (wildlife).

The wildlife section of DoF only manages Gazipur Bhawal forest, Chunati, Lawachhara and Satchhari, he said.

"So the wildlife in other forests is not taken care of properly," he said.

Bangladesh is now home to over 200 wild elephants in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Mymensingh and Sherpur districts with herds moving between Bangladesh and neighbouring India and Myanmar through 15 important corridors.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Bangladesh conducted a survey on elephants in Bangladesh in 2004 that found 239 mammals, while another 83 in captive. The IUCN enlisted the biggest mammals in the forest as critically endangered in 2010.

Some 83 to 100 migratory elephants occasionally cross the border. Besides, there are 38 male and 56 female domesticated elephants used in logging and circus.

Up to 30 percent of

Bangladesh's elephant population is transient migrating over the borders into neighbouring India or Myanmar.

Habitat loss is not only posing a big threat to the wild elephants but also to human security.

As many as 166 people were killed and 101 others injured in elephant attacks listed between 1999 and 2003. Twenty-two elephants were also poached, the IUCN study revealed in 2004.

According to the experts, elephants are often intruding human settlements because of their loss of habitat. Elephant habitat immediately needs to be preserved to stop this, the experts add.

Lack of awareness has also contributed to increasing the human-elephant conflicts in several points including Kaukhali in Rangamati, Banshkhalhi and Patia in Chittagong and Gajni, Sribordi in Sherpur, said Syed Mahmudur Rahman, a researcher presently working with the IUCN.

The experts have made an urgent plea to conserve elephant habitat and pointed out the main threats to the mammals as habitat loss, lack of fodder, disturbing elephant corridors, agricultural practice, human settlement in elephant roaming areas, and poaching for meat and tusks.

Scamsters out to discredit

FROM PAGE 1

scamsters tried under martial law.

Khaled had given an interview to Bangla Vision television channel which was broadcast Thursday night. He was discussing legal difficulties in trying the scamsters.

"But I had not said anything like that. I was saying under a democratic system if we take someone to the court, we need to take very hard evidence and proof of allegations. Otherwise, we cannot get justice properly. But, this does not happen under the martial law, where you don't need much evidence or proof," he said clarifying his position on the matter.

"Since we are operating under a democratic government, we have submitted our report with substantial evidence and proof. Now in order to prosecute the accused people, the government should gather more hard evidence so that the guilty cannot get away," he said.

The veteran banker added that the probe committee report had enough ammunition to prove manipulation by certain share-market players in the court of law. But there were some cases of manipulation that needed to be investigated deeper before going to court.

Talking to The Daily Star

Saturday, Khaled noted that a quarter was hatching a conspiracy over the report. Some people do not want the report's recommendations to be carried out. "If these recommendations are implemented, it would be very difficult to manipulate the share market in the future," he said.

Those who want to manipulate the market have a lot of money and power. They are using money to divert the focus on the recommendations and make the probe committee report controversial. "They are also trying to make the government take a coercive stance against the probe committee," Ibrahim Khaled pointed out.

Khaled's committee had only two months to dig into the scam in which small investors lost around Tk 20,000 crore in the primary share market. The committee pinpointed around 60 players responsible for manipulating the market for their own gain. Interestingly, these 60 players represent businessmen and politicians from Awami League and BNP as well as civil and military officials and those in the regulatory authority.

Some of these players are also involved in the media.

The report submitted on April 7 had recommended

immediate removal of the chairman of the Securities Exchange Commission. The government has not removed him. The government had earlier said it would release the probe report sometime this week but on April 13, Finance Minister AMA Muhith told journalists that it would not be possible to do so as the government would need more time to scrutinise the content.

Meanwhile, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday demanded the government take immediate action against share-market plunderers.

"Those who plundered Tk 20,000 crore from the share market and siphoned the money out of the country are the evil spirits of West Pakistani exploiters," he said at his party standing committee meeting.

6 die

FROM PAGE 1

Sadar Police Station.

Three people died on the spot and three succumbed to their injuries on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH), he added.

The injured were admitted to Palashbari Upazila Health Complex. Nine were shifted to the RMCH as their conditions deteriorated.

Police has seized the bus, the OC said.