

Dogs

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Hospital (DMCH) said 11 people took first aid at the hospital after being bitten by dogs. They were later referred to the IDH at Mohakhali for rabies treatment.

Of the 27 people, Abdul Kuddus, 80, and Abdul Latif, 65, were bitten by dogs at Lalbagh while Sumon, 30, Samir, 6, Zannath, 5, Jaynal Abedin, 25, Shohidul 9, Russel 18 and Saidul Hossain, 25, near Golapshah Mazar.

Mostak Hossain, father of Saidul, said, "My son was bitten by a dog near Golapshah Mazar at about 12:30pm. The same dog also bit several passers-by in the area."

Dog bit Mohammad Hossain, 25, in Doyel Chatter area.

Advocate Abdul Al Mamun, who took Hossain to DMCH, said he saw a dog bite five to six passers-by including women and children in Doyel Chatter area.

The dog bit off a piece of muscle from Hossain's leg, he said, adding that a group of people later killed the dog around noon.

Dilara Akhtar, a doctor of IDH, said it is rare that 27 people should suffer dog bites in a small area.

"Most of the injuries are severe in nature and it appears that they were bitten by the same dog," she said.

"It is necessary to wash the wound as soon as possible with laundry soap and water for about 20 minutes to reduce the chance of rabies infection," Dilara said.

It is also necessary to take full course of vaccine after the bite, she added.

At least 86 people came to the hospital with dog bite injuries yesterday from different parts of the country including Gazipur, Kaliakoir and Savar, IDH sources said.

According to statistics of IDH, around 17,000 people took treatment for dog bites at the hospital since January this year.

Padma bridge

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construction sites at Mawa, Shariatpur and Madaripur yesterday.

The World Bank has already given the go ahead for the Padma Bridge construction tender process with five pre-qualified firms. Syed Abul Hossain told newsmen that work on the bridge construction will begin soon.

He said four groups of workers would start work from both sides of the river and the middle of the river, which would expedite the construction.

Tender process for the construction of Janjira link road and the toll plaza will start on July 14, he said.

Mentioning that 37 organisations worked to design the bridge, the communication minister said the bridge will be able to endure an earthquake as strong as nine on the Richter scale.

People of the area were apparently excited and enthusiastic about the bridge.

"Though I have lost my land, I'm happy. It will develop our village," Rafiqul Islam Mia, a villager of Kumarovog, said. He said he would be able to visit his son-in-law in Barisal quickly once the bridge is built.

Over 2,000 people have been given plots of land in the four rehabilitation centres. Schools, markets, mosques and other socio-economic infrastructures have already been built in Mawa and Shibchar of Madaripur for the people who had to move out.

When the minister visited Janjira construction yard, several affected people urged him to start the river-training soon. Some of them claimed that they were yet to get compensation from the government.

Janjira Thana Nirbahi Officer Vikharuddola said compensation for land, with ownership disputes, has not been dispensed yet.

Many may miss

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work in Malaysia until they are issued visa, said the Bangladesh high commission officials.

Malaysian immigration department will get the workers registered free of cost at its offices across the country, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia, AKM Atiqur Rahman, told The Daily Star over the phone.

Besides, it has hired some private firms to do the job since there are about a million irregular foreign workers in the country. The firms will charge each worker Malaysian Ringgit (RM) 200 to 300 (1 RM equivalent to Tk 24.60), Atiqur said.

From August 8, the employers will have to submit passports of the migrant workers and pay levy ranging from RM 2,000 to 2,500 per head depending on the job sectors, he said.

Some migrants, however, said the amount of levy might be RM 3,000 to 4,000 each.

Asked about this, Anisur Rahman Khan, coordinator of migrant's rights body IMA Research Foundation, said they are worried as many of the employers are reluctant to pay the levy.

Anis, who recently visited Malaysia and talked to undocumented workers, said, "Many employers actually prefer irregular workers because they can make them work at low wages and can dodge labour law in case of any accident."

As per Malaysian rules, the employers are supposed to pay annual levy for work permits for foreign workers, but in reality, they pass it onto the migrants.

"The same thing is going to happen this time also," said Bangladeshi worker Torab Hossain, who lives in the Malaysian state of Negeri Sembilan.

He thinks a small number of employers will pay the levy but the others will not. Most of the undocumented Bangladeshis do not earn

much because of their irregular status and they will not be able to pay the levy, he pointed out.

"We fear a large number of Bangladeshi workers will be unable to get regularised though they are adamant to stay back and work," Torab said.

Besides, unscrupulous elements claiming to be authorised manpower agents are fleecing the migrants in the name of registration, said Torab, who works in a remittance transfer company and meets many workers every day.

"Brokers are taking thumbprints of irregular workers on fake registration forms and are charging RM 300 to 500 from each. The foul play began following Malaysia's announcement of the amnesty," he said.

The migrant workers should be warned of this to avoid being arrested and deported when the registration process is over, he added.

The high commissioner said they have received allegations of such cheating and are asking the workers through the media not to give money to any brokers, but to go to the immigration offices to get registered.

"Our officials are also going to factories, listing names of irregular workers and asking them to follow the rules set by the Malaysian authorities."

Atiqur Rahman also said, "The high commission has sought cooperation of the Malaysian authorities to ensure that the employers do not pass on the levy to the migrants."

If undocumented migrants have no employers to help their regularisation, they can individually get registered. Malaysian authorities will keep a separate list of foreign workers having no employers and help them find jobs, said the diplomat.

It is, however, yet not clear who will pay their levy.

Rumana files

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Elna Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

On June 30, copies of divorce notice have been sent to Dhaka City Corporation, Sumon's family and the jail in where he is detained, Elna said.

Meanwhile, in Vancouver General Hospital of Canada, a medical team led by David Maberley has started her treatment.

"Rumana was admitted to Vancouver hospital the day she reached Canada," said her cousin Rashed Maqsood. "Surgeons cleaned clotted blood in her left eye the same day."

The right eye was washed on Thursday, Maqsood quoted Rumana's father Manzur Hossain, who accompanied her daughter to Canada, as saying.

Rumana, a teacher of DU international relations department, was rushed to Vancouver as the eye-specialists there opted for a surgery on her, said family sources.

Also a postgraduate student of University of British Columbia in Canada, she has been granted a six-month residency in the North American country for the treatment.

Well-wishers, donors and fellow UBC students have raised \$41,000 so far to help support Rumana and her family for the next six months, reports The Vancouver Sun of Wednesday.

On June 14, Rumana was taken to India where experts expressed little hope for her damaged eyes.

In another development, the Detective Branch in its investigation has found the allegations against Sumon, arrested on June 15, to be true, a DB source said.

The probe is almost done and the charge sheet might be submitted within this week, the source added.

10 lakh votes

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Mount Kilimanjaro of Japan, the Grand Canyon of the United States and the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland, among others.

Campaigners for the Sundarbans say most of these places are widely known to the world and the people of those countries have wider access to technologies.

Voting through short message service (SMS) started on June 24 and will end in early November this year. The results will be announced on November 11.

The Sundarbans is the only Asian forest to grace the list of 28 finalists.

According to officials of Teletalk, the state-run telecom service responsible for overseeing the votes, the number rose steadily. Although the voting slowed down in the middle, it again picked up over the last few days.

Earlier, votes could only be cast through telephone and internet, both of which are costly and inaccessible to most Bangladeshis.

To overcome the problem, Teletalk signed a contract with the New Seven Wonders Foundation that would allow the people of Bangladesh to vote through SMS.

There are at least five crore active mobile SIM cards in the country, and if 20 SMSs are sent through each SIM card, the Sundarbans will get 100 crore votes, campaigners said.

To vote for the Sundarbans, one needs to type SB and send it to 16333 from any operators. The Swiss-based New Seven Wonders Foundation will thank the voter through a return message.

If selected, it is expected to improve the country's national image and attract more tourists.

Victim

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huge resentment among the students of the school and their parents. They staged demonstrations in front of the institution demanding punishment of the accused.

The victim's father filed a sexual assault case against Porimol on Tuesday, the same day the school authorities fired him. Porimol was arrested the next day from Kamrangirchar.

A Dhaka court on Thursday placed the accused on a five-day remand in the case.

UK phone hacking

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the scandal.

Coulson has denied any knowledge of phone hacking while he was NoW editor.

News International has said it is shutting the News of the World after this Sunday's edition following a spate of fresh revelations.

Meanwhile, BBC business editor Robert Peston said he had learned media regulator Ofcom was concerned about the proposed takeover of British Sky Broadcasting by the paper's ultimate owner - Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation.

He said Ofcom was likely to issue a statement later making it clear it regarded evidence that the NoW's newsroom was out of control for many years was relevant to a judgement on whether News Corp would be a fit and proper owner of BSkyB.

Coulson, 43, was arrested at 1030 BST yesterday by

detectives investigating allegations of hacking the phones of various people in the news and is also being questioned about corruption allegations.

He was arrested by appointment at a south London police station and is in custody.

A number of suited men, thought to be police officers, entered Coulson's south London home with large plastic crates at about 1200 BST.

Coulson, who was the paper's editor at the time, said he took "ultimate responsibility" for the scandal but insisted he was unaware of any phone hacking by his journalists.

He was employed as Cameron's director of communications in 2007 but Guardian editor Alan Rusbridger claims he warned Cameron's team not to employ Coulson.

Cameron said of Coulson: "I became friends with him

and I think he did his job for me in a very effective way. He became a friend and he is a friend."

The 168-year-old tabloid is accused of hacking into phones of crime victims, celebrities and politicians. Police have identified 4,000 possible targets.

Cameron said the judge-led inquiry would look into "why did the first police investigation fail so abysmally; what exactly was going on at the News of the World and what was going on at other newspapers".

"Of course the bulk of this inquiry can only happen when the police investigation has finished. That is what the law requires," he added.

Cameron said a second inquiry would look at the ethics and culture of the press and that the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) should be scrapped, adding: "I believe we need a new system entirely".

Pedestrians risk life

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university student was talking on his phone while walking along the rail lines. He did not notice the train coming from behind.

Doctors say that an "increasing number of people" are visiting emergency rooms these days because they got distracted and tripped, fell or ran into something while listening to music or using a mobile phone.

"Their numbers are on the rise," said Md Shah Alam, an associate professor at the National Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), a popularly known as the Pangu Hospital.

"But numbers mean little here," he said noting that the number of mishaps is probably much higher considering that most injuries are not severe enough to require a hospital visit.

Examples of such visits include a 16-year-old boy who walked into a pillar while texting and suffered a mild concussion; a 25-year-old who tripped and fractured a finger while listening to music on his MP3 player; and a 68-year-old man who fell off the stairs while talking on his mobile phone, spraining a thumb and an ankle, the professor said.

According to psychologists, sometimes pedestrians using their phones do not notice objects or people that are right in front of

them.

One explanation is that a mobile phone conversation prompts the listener to create visual imagery related to the conversation in a way that obscures the processing of real images, said Shamim F Karim, professor at the Department of Psychology of Dhaka University.

She said mobile phones give people an urge to pursue priorities that they feel more important than keeping their eyes on the street.

For Zafar Hasan, 21, the priority was keeping in touch with his friend from overseas. Last month while he was shopping in a Gulshan shopping arcade, he was texting his friend and he walked into the window of a footwear store, thinking it was an entrance to the store.

"I just started laughing at myself," he said, noting that no harm was done.

The worst part is the humiliation, said Israt Hossain, 20, an architecture student who 18 months ago had her own pratfall.

She said the pavement was packed with pedestrians in Motijheel. So she decided to walk on the street along parked cars. The trouble is she was also texting.

She unwittingly started to veer into the road, prompting an oncoming car to honk. Israt instinctively jumped toward the pavement. She had forgotten about the line of parked cars

in between.

"I hit the side of a car, and the phone hit the ground," she said. She and her phone were uninjured, except for her pride. "It was pretty significantly embarrassing," she said.

Judge enquires

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A division bench comprising Chief Justice J N Patel and Justice A K Roy, taking note of a letter-petition by NGO Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, turned it into public interest litigation and directed the state Home Secretary to file an affidavit giving details of the number, status and steps to repatriate the Bangladeshi prisoners.

Home Secretary G D Gautama, who was present in the court on a direction by the court, sought two weeks to find out the details.

The petition claimed the prisoners, most of whom had been sentenced to jail for overstaying in India or illegally entering the country, were languishing for months and some for years in different jails due to lack of initiative to send them back to their country.

The petition, moved by counsel Madhurima Dhanuka, claimed 427 males and 53 females are languishing in jails beyond their term.

The matter would be taken up for hearing again on July 29, the bench directed.

Transit for only peaceful

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diverse areas.

Krishna said, "We face new challenges and non-traditional security threats. The rise of religious fundamentalism, extremism and terrorism is not unfamiliar to our region. Such forces sap the strength of our societies, threaten our state systems and are an impediment to our advancement."

He said India and Bangladesh have had good cooperation in fighting such forces and hoped that the two countries would continue to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations to secure the peoples and give them the hope of stability, development, peace and prosperity.

He expressed optimism that the outstanding land boundary issues between India and Bangladesh will be resolved in the near future in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner.

The resolution of boundary and its demarcation will remove an impediment to our collaborative efforts for growth and development and enhance people-to-people exchanges, he added.

Krishna said the two countries have a very good agreement on the sharing of the Ganges waters which is being implemented sincerely by both sides. "I am optimistic that we shall reach similar conclusions on the sharing of the Teesta and Feni waters."

He emphasised that it is necessary to deal with each other in a spirit of transpar-

ency and sincerity.

The Indian minister said he sees a growing enthusiasm for trade and economic cooperation between the two sides. "Both our economies are robust and have weathered the global economic downturn."

However, he said trade volumes between the two countries are low and stressed the importance of significantly increasing the volumes of trade through trade and investments in conjunction.

Krishna asked Bangladesh to welcome a number of Indian corporate entities who are looking forward to opportunities for investments in Bangladesh for mutual benefit.

On the issue of connectivity, he said access to goods and services across frontiers will improve the living conditions of people. "We cannot deprive them of this opportunity, we should see connectivity in a dynamic concept of markets that are growing rapidly on both sides of the borders; in the north east of India, the growth could be even more rapid than the rest of India."

"As the pie expands on both sides, the opportunities for business also expand exponentially," he added.

Bangladesh International Institute of Strategic Studies governing body Chairman Maj Gen Ferdous Mian chaired the session while its DG Maj Gen Imrul Quayes gave the welcome address. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and other high officials, researchers, academicians

and diplomats were also present.

Before leaving for New Delhi yesterday Krishna visited the Dhaka University campus. He inaugurated renovation work of a few rooms of the arts faculty building there.

EU supports

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would like to express the EU's recognition for the successful work of Prof Yunus, whose tireless commitment deserves our profound respect."

Yunus also attended a session in the European Parliament. The president of the parliament interrupted the parliament proceedings to announce the presence of Yunus as a distinguished guest. The parliament greeted him with a big applause.

Later, he was received by Parliament President Jerzy Buzek in the latter's chamber. In a statement Buzek said: "Microcredit should be supported around the world. I would like to welcome in particular the microcredit facilities in Bangladesh -- the native country of Prof Yunus."

Buzek, also former Polish prime minister, praised the concept of social business, pioneered by Prof Yunus, and hoped to work on ways to help new partners connect with social business.

He invited the Grameen Bank founder to Poland to introduce social business to the business leaders in his country with an offer to organise the tour.

Deal details

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SM Krishna made a courtesy call at her Gulshan office prior to his departure after a three-day visit.

Shamser Mobin Chowdhury, BNP vice chairman and former foreign secretary, briefed the media about the outcome of the 40-minute meeting. The meeting started around 12:15pm.

In the meeting, Khaleda said people must know what type of agreement Bangladesh and India have reached.

Krishna said if the constitution allows people and political parties can press so that the deals are discussed in the parliament.

Khaleda assured him that the constitution has that provision.

Meanwhile in the press briefing, Shamser Mobin said that the meeting did not have any detailed discussion on the transit issue.

Khaleda drew Krishna's attention to media reports that said the Teesta-water-sharing deal might be signed during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh.

The former prime minister also expressed concern over the increasing number of killing at borders by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and hoped that India will take necessary steps to stop it so that relation between the two countries can improve.

Khaleda emphasised continued dialogue between Bangladesh and India to help build stronger ties between the neighbouring countries. She said her party believes in good relations with neighbouring countries and mutual benefit.

Shamser Mobin said some important bilateral issues including the water sharing of common rivers and climate change were also discussed.

BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Khaleda's adviser Sabihuddin Ahmed were present at the meeting.

Four more

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Meanwhile, the leaders of Safe Waterway Movement yesterday at a press conference held at the National Press Club urged the government to conduct regular dredging and capital dredging to bring back the navigability of rivers and reduce launch accidents in the waterway.

They also demanded announcing July 8 as the 'Safe Waterway Implementation Day' as at least 600 people were killed during an accident of MV Nasrin in 2003 on the day.

Aminur Rasul Babul, member secretary of the organisation read out the written statement where they placed a 15-point recommendation to the government.

Troops ordered

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involved in violence on the spot," Sharjeel Memon, the provincial information minister, told Reuters.

"In addition to the police and Rangers, another 1,000 personnel of the Frontier Constabulary will be deployed in the city to control the violence," he said, referring to another paramilitary force.

"Thirty-seven people were killed yesterday alone," Memon said.

Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani appealed for peace, calling for the country to unite against the city's violence.

The US ambassador to Pakistan also voiced concern about escalating instability in the city whose Arabian Sea port is used by the United States to ship supplies to the 150,000 foreign troops fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Karachi, home to more than 18 million people, has a long history of ethnic, religious and sectarian violence.

A recent report from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan said 1,138 people were killed in Karachi in the first six months of 2011, of whom 490 were victims of political, ethnic and sectarian violence.

The latest surge in violence in the southern city came days after the MQM announced it was quitting the ruling coalition.